Jet-Lagged? Shine a Bright Light Behind a Knee

Signal Mysteriously Resets **Body Clocks Up to 3 Hours**

By Sandra Blakesiee New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In an experiment described as flabbergasting, scientists shined a bright light on the backs of human knees and, in some mysterious way,

teset the master biological clock in the human brain. Those treated with the light had their body clocks advanced or delayed by up to three hours, enough to Overcome the fatigue associated with familiar forms

of jet lag or insomnia.
The finding, which is described in the current issue of Science magazine, is so surprising that many experts said they are withholding judgment until the experiment is duplicated later this year. But those who heard the study described at a meeting last

summer said that it had been carefully done.
"We were all flabbergasted," said Dr. Michael
Menaker, a biologist at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. "For three days we tried to find flaws in the experiment and we couldn't."

This is very exciting and newsworthy," said Dr. Al Lewy, an expert on circadian rhythms at the University of Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland. "We've taken it as received wisdom that such effects would have to be mediated through the

eyes. I am very surprised. It is so revolutionary. There are more biological mechanisms underlying the human response to light than was dreamt of in our original hypothesis, "said Dr. Thomas Wehr, chief of the clinical psychobiology branch at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland. "Still, until others repeat the experiment, the

findings have to be regarded as preliminary."

But if the finding holds up, the experts said, it will See KNEES, Page 10

But When on the Plane, Don't Count on First Aid

By Susan Okie Washington Past Service

WASHINGTON - "Is there a doctor on

John Knight, a surgeon from Shreveport, Louisiana, was on the first leg of a vacation with his family when the plane's intercorn delivered that terse question. Thus began the worst medical experience of his

For the next 25 minutes, as the plane descended to Miami, Dr. Knight and a fellow passenger — a new paramedic who had never before treated a patient — knelt in the aisle and tried desperately to resuscitate a

See DOCTOR, Page 4

Yeltsin's Absence From Moscow Creates a Vacuum

Political Leadership Is Paralyzed As President Stays in Countryside

By David Hoffman

MOSCOW - A month ago, before he fell ill, President Boris Yeltsin was on the verge of delivering a televised tongue-lashing to his government. The Kremlin promised Mr. Yeltsin would hold his ministers and bureaucrats to account for their failures at the start of his second term.

Then the session was postponed. And postponed again. Mr. Yeltsin spent two weeks recuperating from his lness, which aides said was an acute viral infection, then

NEWS ANALYSIS

went on vacation at a forested resort near Valday, in Russia's northwest. This week he was seen, for the first time in two weeks, in brief snippets of Kremlinprovided videotape, bundled in a heavy coat, riding a snowmobile, strolling with one of his favored young reformers, First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov, and greeting his grandson, Gleb.

The pause in Mr. Yeltsin's official activity once

again has raised the question of his desire and ability to carry forward the aggressive reform agenda he undertook last spring. Slowly, implementation of that agenda has ground to a half, and the next cycle in Mr. Yeltsin's long career of peaks and valleys is shrouded in uncertainty, according to many analysts here.

said the president was "full of energy" and planned to return to work next week. The Kremlin has announced that he will visit Italy and the Vatican in February.

But Mr. Yeltsin's latest absence has demonstrated anew how his presence is central to Russia's rocky. incomplete transition to democracy and free markets. When he is active, Mr. Yeltsin dominates the political scene, with broad executive and legislative powers under the 1993 constitution. But when Mr. Yeltsin is absent, as he has been since Dec. 10, Russia's political and economic leadership falls into paralysis and drift. These cycles of vigorous action and languor have alternated throughout Mr. Yeltsin's presidency.

"Yeltsin made at least one thing a monument to himself," said Lilia Shevtsova, senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for World Peace in Moscow. "He made a system that cannot function in a civilized way without him. He liquidated every possibility of a challenge to himself. He eliminated any strong govemment rivals. He dictates the rules. He is the law. Mr. Yeltsin's power often has been tempered by his

See YELTSIN, Page 10

A Rare European Look at Algeria's Horror



Britain's envoy to Algeria, Francis Gordon, visiting Sidi Hamed on Thursday, where at least 100 people were killed last weekend. Algiers agreed Thursday to receive an EU mission. Page 2.

Heading Off a Social Explosion

World Bank Acts Quietly to Help Those Hardest Hit in Asia

By Alan Friedman

While top officials from the Clinton administration and the Initernational Monetary Fund jet around Asian capitals trying to contain the region's financial crisis, the World Bank is quietly launching a series of initiatives aimed at preventing a social explosion they fear might be spawned by the turmoil.

The World Bank has already dispatched dozens of its staff and outside consultants to Indonesia and Thailand and is planning to allocate a total of about \$800 million of new loans this year aimed at ensuring there is a social safety net for the poor and unemployed who stand to lose most as a result of the crisis, according to executives of the bank.

In Washington, an aide to James Wolfensohn, the World Bank president, said that Mr. Wolfensohn would travel to Indonesia at the end of this month as part of a tour of East Asia aimed at assessing the need for more aid on the social front as well as bolstering

support for economic reforms. Millions of Indonesians are expected to lose their jobs in the months ahead as the economy continues to slow and the reforms announced Thursday by President Suharto cut back on businesses linked to an entrenched system

of cronvism. "The risk," said Javad Shirazi, a World Bank regional manager for East Asia, "is that this crisis could prove prolonged and deep, and if that is the case the poor are going to be hurt very seriously." The aim of World Bank programs in Thailand and Indonesia, Mr. Shirazi and other officials said, is to provide a social cushion by working with governments to make sure that the austerity programs do not deprive the lower rungs of society of essential welfare, health care and education. In South Korea, the World Bank's team is working on labor market reforms, and on ways to protect the unemployed in a country that lacks unemployment insurance.

See BANK, Page 15

Suharto Agrees To End Monopolies

IMF Deal Would Dismantle Cartels of Family and Friends

By Seth Mydans New York Times Service

JAKARTA - Indonesia stepped into a new and risky chapter in its history Thursday when President Suharto announced wide-ranging economic re-forms that, if carried out, would overturn the country's entrenched ways of doing business.

Capitulating to international pres-sure, Mr. Suharto signed a remarkably specific agreement with the International Monetary Fund that requires him to dismantle the monopolies, the family-owned businesses and his iron control of the economy that have marked his 32 years of rule.

It was his second agreement with the IMF in four months — the last of which he nearly abrogated completely — and some analysts were cantious in their optimism. The Jakarta stock exchange slumped 4.1 percent, and the rupiah dropped 14 percent against the dollar. "It's quite impressive," said Donald

Emmerson, a professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who is considered an expert on Indonesia. "One has to be encouraged but still skeptical about follow-through.

The question is, show me the money Many Indonesians were stunned to hear that the program explicitly targets Mr. Suharto's powerful inner circle.

If the reforms are put into effect, his youngest son, Hutomo Mandala Putra, would lose his monopoly on the production of cloves — a key ingredient in the sweet cigarettes that are popular here — and would no longer receive tax breaks and special concessions for a faltering national car program.

Mr. Suharto's close friends would lose lucrative cartels on plywood, paper and cement distribution as well as government support for an expensive and economically questionable aircraftbuilding enterprise.

Before its drop Thursday, the Jakarta market had risen 15 percent this week in anticipation of the reform package.
[Sara Zervos, an analyst at BZW in

London, told Reuters that "the initial market fall has to be understood in the context of the exaggerated market expectations before the package and the relentless local demand for dollars to repay outstanding dollar debts.'

["If the measures we've seen toda are implemented promptly," she added. then this is very good news for the economy over the medium term."]

It was not until his country reached ground zero that Mr. Suharto acted. Despite a promise of \$40 billion in aid from the IMF last October, the crisis has grown in recent weeks. The rupiah has plummeted, investors have fled, citizens have begun to panic, and calls for

Mr. Suharto's removal have increased. "I feel relief," Mr. Suharto, 76, said in a rare press conference at his house. "But also I am aware that there are great chal-

lenges ahead that need to be faced." The challenges confront virtually all Indonesians, from the workers who will lose their jobs, to the corporate giants who will lose their monopolies, to the president himself, who has staked his future on an economic revival.

See JAKARTA, Page 4

President Suharto signing a new accord with the IMF on Thursday.

Asia's Problems Give the Dollar New Status as **World Currency**

By Steven Pearlstein Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Almighty

Dollar is back. With Asian financial markets in tur-

moil, Europe in an economic funk and the price of just about everything falling around the world, it seems everyone wants to have and hold dollars. In recent weeks, there have been re-

ports of Russian housewives stuffing greenbacks into glass jars and secretaries in Singapore switching their savings accounts into dollars at local branches of Citicorp and American Express. Big financial players have also

jumped into the act. Treasurers of giant corporations are scrambling to convert overseas profits back into dollars before they erode further in value, and central bankers in Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Australia and even Switzerland have been selling off gold reserves in favor of dollars and U.S. Treasury bonds.

This demand for greenbacks has driven up the value of the dollar against most other currencies. In the past six months, the dollar has risen 4 percent against the Deutsche mark, 15 percent against the Japanese yen, 70 percent against the Thai baht, 90 percent against the Korean won and 195 percent against the Indonesian rupiah.

To a large degree, the dollar's ascent reflects flight from the economic problems in Asia to the relative safety offered by the U.S. economy and its financial markets. Were it not for the stabilizing influence provided by the dollar, economists say the damage from the crisis could have been even greater.

But economists also stress that the dollar's resurgence reflects a longerterm restoration of confidence in the performance of the U.S. economy and the soundness of its economic policies.

"The dollar is the comeback kid,"

said Robert Litan, director of economic studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "The 1970s and 1980s were marked by a long-term erosion in the dollar driven by our ever-widening trade deficit and the relatively poor performance of our economy compared to the rest of the world. Now we are the world's growth leader and one of the most attractive places to invest. And in the midst of financial turmoil, we are an island of stability.

William Poole, an economist at Brown University, added, "If this Asian crisis had occurred in the 1970s or '80s, the world would have sent its money to Germany and Switzerland."

The last time there was a global financial crisis - during the worldwide stock-market collapse of October 1987 it was a much different scenario. U.S. policymakers at the time indicated they

See DOLLAR, Page 15

German Spymaster Pays Price for Loyalty Markus Wolf Is Put in Jail for Refusing to Identify a Cold War Agent

By Alan Cowell

BONN - Finally, they ran him to the

ground.

More than eight years after the collapse of the Berlin Wall and after two failed judicial attempts to put him behind bars, a court in Frankfurt jailed Markus Wolf, East Germany's former spymaster, on Thursday for refusing to dentify an agent he ran in a Cold War

Once known to Western spies as the "man without a face" because of his elusiveness, the 74-year-old Mr. Wolf had long resisted what he termed a witch-hunt by the Cold War's West German victors to punish him for outwitting them for so long. In contrast to the twilit. Le Carre-esque world of double agents and deception he once

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Gabon.... 1 100 CFA Senegal 1.100 CFA

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inhabited, he maintained that he would never betray those who spied for him. Even when, according to his memoirs

published last year, he was offered a new identity, a "seven-figure sum" and a home in California by the United States Central Intelligence Agency in 1990, he refused to unmask the myriad agents he sent to burrow into the former West Germany and the NATO alliance.

On Thursday, loyalty exacted its price. Appearing as a witness in the espionage trial of a former West German legislator, Mr. Wolf refused to give the name of an agent he mentioned in his memoirs under the code name "Julius" — beyond saying that "Julius" was not the former legislator on trial, Gerhard Flamig.

'I refuse to testify," he said, and was sent to a prison near Darmstadt. He was jailed under what German law calls "Beugehaft," which translates as "coercive detention," and permits the incarceration of recalcitrant witnesses for up to six months. Judicial officials said the length of his prison term would

depend upon his readiness to testify.

Mr. Wolf told the court that the defendant, Mr. Flamig — who denies hav-ing spied for East Germany — had been an unwitting bit player in the Cold War, conducting authorized political discussions in the former East Germany without even knowing he was talking to intelligence personnel, including Mr. Wolf himself.

But, Mr. Wolf said, Mr. Flamig had not been one of the estimated 4,000 spies and informants the spymaster for East Germany is thought to have controlled. The most fabled of those was Gunter Guillaume, who infiltrated Chancellor

See SPY, Page 10



Markus Wolf, whose jailing Thursday capped decades of drama, specialized during the Cold War in infiltrating West Germany.

AGENDA

'Right Stuff' Hero Heading Back to Space

has decided to let Senator John Glenn return to space on a shuttle flight, two officials familiar with the decision said

The National Aeronauties and Space Administration scheduled a news conference for Friday that the 76-year-old astronaut turned senator was due to at-

WASHINGTON (AP) - NASA tend. Mr. Glenn refused to comment on the matter, saying only, "I look forward to discussing this in the future."

Mr. Glenn, an Ohio Democrat, was the first American to orbit the Earth. He has offered himself as an in-flight subject for tests that might improve earthbound research on the human aging

California's Battle Over San Simeon

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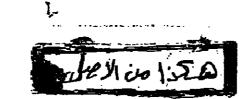
The Joy of Eating

With an article on the delights of eating in Singapore, the IHT's restaurant critic, Patricia Wells, begins a series of reports or Asia, Coming arti-



cles will take her to Shanghai. Hong Kong, Bangkok and Chiang Mai. In Leis-

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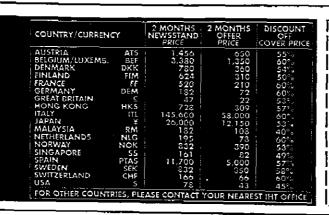
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TRAVEL UPDATE

were abused by intolerant, violent re-

ligious groups or by Egypt's powerful

state, defending intellectuals who were

branded "apostates" by Islamic mil-

itants, as well as many of those same

militants, against whom the government

Helen Haje, 74, a Washington public

relations woman who championed

Arab-American interests with such

good-natured fervor that she became

gadfly and godmother to the Arab-

has waged a fierce campaign.

AMSTERDAM (AP) — KLM Royal Dutch Airlines said Thursday it would discontinue flights to San Juan, Puerto

Rico, and Ho Chi Minh City.

KLM's four flights a week to San Juan will be discontinued

Heavy snow fell on Tokyo Thursday, forcing the can-cellation of 475 domestic flights at Haneda airport, delaying bullet trains and causing hundreds of road accidents. A man was killed in a western suburb when a garage roof collapsed.

KLM baggage handlers staged a wildcat strike Thursday at Schiphol airport in Amsterdam, a KLM spokesman said,

Mexico City will establish "tourist corridors," with

An item in Thursday's editions from Bloomberg News incorrectly stated the amount that Daewoo Electronics Co. had frozen in investments in France. The correct amount is 4

A headline Saturday erroneously reported the number of

Hisham Mubarak, Egyptian Rights Advocate, Dies

agricultural land to recreational uses and intruding

on sensitive wildlife habitats and scarce water re-

sources, including streams that are home to the

The staff recommended cutting the total number

of hotel rooms to 375 and concentrating virtually all new development around the coastal village of Old

San Simeon, which consists mostly of some 19th-

century warehouses where Mr. Hearst stored some

of his vast collection of art during the 30-year construction of the castle, begun in 1919.

larger complex.
On Wednesday, in a misty winter rain, the 12-

member commission, together with lobbyists for both sides, took a field trip around the site. They

stopped for lunch at the Hearst Castle visitors'

center, where members of the commission's staff

complained that it had been hard to keep some

advocates from buttonholing commissioners on the

Sara Wan, the commission's deputy chairman,

said she expected the debate to be the most con-

tentious in her memory, because of what was at

stake. "This is California," she said, gesturing

toward the majestic coastline outside the door.

EARST Corp. contends that the resort

would be economically unfeasible at that

size, with per-room development costs rising to \$24,000, from \$15,000 for the

threatened steelhead trout.

Robert Townsend, 77, a chairman and president of Avis Rent-a-Car who went on to write the best-selling book "Up the Organization: How to Stop the Corporation From Stifling People and Strangling Profits," died of a heart attack Monday on the island of Anguilla in the West Indies.

Joso Octavio van-Dunem, 73, one of the founders of Angola's ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, who battled Portugal for independence and then saw his Marxistinspired movement plunge into a long civil war, died Monday in Lisbon.

Revamped EU Mission Is Approved by Algeria

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS - An on-again, off-again European Union fact-finding mission on mass killings in Algeria was back on Thursday after the Europeans agreed to send higher-ranking officials to the former French colony than the ones. Algeria had refused a day earlier.

The team, now to include junior ministers from Britain, Luxembourg, and Austria, will travel next week to Algiers, the British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, said after several hurried telephone calls Thursday to the Algerian foreign minister, Ahmed Attaf.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the official press agency, APS, that the visit would begin Monday.

The delegation will comprise Derek Fatchett, secretary of state in the British Foreign Office, Georges Wohlfart of Luxembourg and Benita Ferrero-Waldner of Austria, as well as Manuel Marin, a European Union official. Mr. Attaf had said that a delegation of

lower-ranking officials the Europeans had planned to send over the weekend was "'not appropriate."

A spokesman for the European Commission in Brussels said Thursday that the officials would discuss "all subjects, no matter how sensitive." with lgerian officials.

Previously, the Algerians have rejected as outside interference all arrempts by foreign governments to inquire deeply into the reasons for the killings of 60,000 to 75,000 people in six years of conflict between militant Islamic fundamentalists and the mil-

itary-backed regime.

After reports of wholesale slaughter of hundreds of civilians, apparently by fundamentalist forces, since the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan on Dec. 30, the European Union decided it could no longer just stand by and got Algeria to agree to receive a delegation. Algerian officials had indicated that they would welcome a delegation for talks about their efforts to combat terrorism but then turned down the proposed delegation as not high-powered enough.

France, which was forced to grant independence to Algeria in 1962 after a long and bloody struggle to keep it a colony, said the European Union mission would be "a mission to listen to and dialogue with Algerian authorities."

Paris hopes to encourage a dialogue between the Algerian government and the moderate Islamic forces and gradually wind down the violence.

Iran Wants U.S. to RSVP

'Small Steps' Are Sought After Tehran Invitation

By Elaine Sciolino New York Times Service

TEHRAN - As President Mohammed Khatami receives both praise and criticism in Iran for his public overture to the American people last week, one of his advisers and relatives has called on the Clinton administration to respond with a gesture of its own.

"As my brother has said, there is a wall of distrust between the United States and Iran," Dr. Reza Khatami, one of the president's two younger brothers. said in an interview. "As the Americans have said, we don't believe in words we believe in actions. If the Americans want to change their policy, maybe we can say they have to prove it with ac-

Dr. Khatami, 38, a kidney specialist who serves as a deputy health minister, is described by Iranian officials as one of the president's closest aides.

He made his remarks Wednesday in response to questions about whether Iran was looking for additional responses from the United States.

Dr. Khatami listed three gestures that the Iranians would welcome: a review of the American sanctions that punish in Iran's oil and gas, an easing of burdensome visa regulations to make it easier for Iranians to travel to the United States, and an inquiry into whether Iranian assets frozen by Washington could

be more speedily returned.
"I think there should be steps," he said, "even if there are small steps."

In an interview with CNN last week, President Khatami proposed cultural exchanges as a way to break down the mistrust between his country and the United States. But he ruled out a government-to-government dialogue, saying there was no need for political ties with Washington. U.S. officials have so far insisted that any dialogue take place between government officials.

WEATHER

While there has been no criticism here --- and indeed much praise --- of the proposal for cultural ties with the American people, some hard-line newspapers and the state-run radio and television have lashed out at President Khatami for saying that the American people had been "hurt" by the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979 and that he did not agree with the burning of the American flag.

Asked for his reaction to the American

ican response so far, Dr. Khatami said, "I think it is too early to judge or say we are happy or not."

Praise and criticism of the Iranian president continues to pour in. In an interview with two Iranian newspapers Tuesday, Majid Ansari, a midlevel clerand Khatami supporters, went even further than the president Normalizing relations between Iran and the United States "will be in the interest of both nations," Mr. Ansari said, if the relationship is based on mutual respect and international norms of behavior.

"We want ties with all countries except the regime of Israel," Mr. Ansari said. But he warned, "As long as the United States does not change its attitude toward Iran and Islam, ties are

Iran's top clerical leaders have so far refrained from comment, apparently preferring to let supporters and critics of President Khatami fight it out in the news media first.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, has yet to speak publicly about President Khatami's interview.

President Khatami's proposal to open cultural exchanges is a modest one. În a new development, the official Iranian press agency announced that five freestyle wrestlers and five officials from USA Wrestling would take part in an international competition in Iran next month. They would be the first American sports group to visit since the rev-

A lawyer by training, Mr. Mubarak used his knowledge of Egypt's legal system to fight for those whose rights American movement in the United States, died of heart failure Monday at a hospital near her home in Washington.

truly independent and fought for all whose rights were denied, no matter what their political perspective," said

Hanny Megally, an Egyptian in New York who is the executive director of

the Middle East Division of Human

help new activists in the field and stood

aloof from the human-rights move-

ment's infighting, he was seen as a role

model by many younger Egyptians. He will be sorely missed."

'Because he was always ready to

Rights Watch.

 $Near\,Big\,Sur/$ Environmentalists Battle for Coastline

By Todd S. Purdum

New York Times Service

called La Cuesta Encantada, his Enchanted Hill. The house and grounds have been a state park

since 1958 and now draw nearly a million visitors a

year. But Mr. Hearst's heirs still own the bulk of this

spectacular 15-mile (24-kilometer) stretch of the

central California coastline, and their proposal to

build a 650-room resort complex and a 27-hole golf

course overlooking the ocean has sparked a colossal

battle among environmentalists, ranchers, unions,

pro-development groups and local officials over the

future of land that has remained virtually unchanged

since Spanish colonial days.
"It's probably the coastal issue of the '90s,'' said

Peter Douglas, executive director of the state's powerful Coastal Commission.

The commission may vote shortly after a hearing on the plan in nearby San Luis Obispo. Indeed, the hotel there where the members have been meeting

for several days resembles nothing else so much as

a state legislature at budget time, with dozens of

The issue has shaped up as a classic fight over

private property rights and environmental concerns

in a state where the environmental movement and

coastal protections have long been strong but where

population growth and economic recovery are put-

ting new development pressures on once-sleepy

The Hearst resort would take up a small part of what has been a working cattle ranch ever since the family patriarch, the mining magnate George Hearst, began buying land here in 1865. The idea is

not new, having languished in one form or another for three decades as the Hearst Corp., the family-controlled media conglomerate, tried in vain to win

final approval for a project large enough to justify what it now estimates could be a \$100 million

investment to build a resort complex in several

would allow a broader range of development along

its coastline stretching southward from the rocky

cliffs of Big Sur by relaxing rules that ensure rural

character with strict limits on the scale of buildings in

The county's board of supervisors approved that

"It's good for the county, it's good for the

relaxation, and the incorporated Hearst proposal, by a

3-2 vote last year, after two sears changed in the 1996

economy," said the board's new chairman, Michael

Rvan. a rancher. "We have a beautiful county here,

growing slowly, and I like that. But it has to grow

and this is a slow, planned, sensible way to do it."

Spokesmen for the Hearst Corp. emphasize that

the county's plan is only a broad zoning overview

and that each proposed project, from the golf course

By Judith Miller

New York Times Service

political analyst and one of Egypt's

leading human-rights advocates, died of

small but growing human-rights com-munity, many of whose members he had

trained and intellectually nourished.

Egyptian intellectuals regarded the pas-

sionate young lawyer as the best of the

country's new generation of civil liber-

tarians and advocates for social justice.

'He was remarkable in that he was

expected to be signed by April 1998.

Mr. Lirwinski also said there were indications that the

Polish government would proceed quickly with the pri-

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Mr. Mubarak's death stunned Cairo's

a heart attack Monday night.

each other's flights.

CAIRO — Hisham Mubarak, 35, a

elections, making for a pro-development majority.

scenic areas and the retention of agricultural land.

OW the plan is up for review again, as part of a broader coastal planning revision that San Luis Obispo County was required to

submit to the state. The county's plan

lobbyists haunting the hallways.

phases over the next 15 years.

AN SIMEON, California — It spreads like a rolling green and brown blanker from the

mountains to the sea, 77,000 acres of pristine ranch land crowned by the private castle of treasures that William Randolph Hearst

In Xanadu, Hearst Corp. Decrees a Resort

Crowning the 77,000 acres of pristine ranch land at San Simeon,

called La Cuesta Encantada, his Enchanted Hill.

to a dude ranch and two other proposed hotels.

would have to face the usual gantlet of building

permits and environmental review before a brick

could be laid or a hole dug. They have undertaken a

major lobbying campaign that might have made the

old tycoon smile, sending direct mail to every

registered voter in the county, running full-page

newspaper advertisements and buying time for a

said Philip Battaglia, a Los Angeles lawyer who has

so broad a framework that environmental groups are

worried. They fear that development on the Hearst

land would put pressure on ranchers up and down

the coast to sell to developers, so as to meet rising

As a result, the Hearst plan looms as a "drop-

dead, save-it-or-lose-it" issue, in the words of

Susan Jordan, a volunteer with the League for

Coastal Protection, one of a broad coalition of

environmental groups that has fought the project --

especially the golf course, planned for the bluffs

Last month the coastal commission's executive

staff recommended denial of the Hearst plan, es-

pecially the golf course, on the ground that it would

be inconsistent with the state's Coastal Act by

obstructing views and public access, converting

It is precisely because the county's plan would set

We feel the phase-in is the built-in protection,"

promotional videotape on local cable television.

represented Hearst Corp. for 20 years.

property taxes.

above San Simeon Point.

California, is the private castle of treasures that William Randolph Hearst

LOT and BA Seeking Cooperation KLM Will Discontinue 2 Routes

WARSAW (AP) — The Polish airline LOT and British Airways took a step Thursday toward cooperation in codesharing, frequent flyer programs and booking seats on some of The airlines signed a memorandum of understanding, and Ian Litwinski, president of LOT, said that an agreement was

starting Friday, the airline said, while daily flights to Ho Chi Minh City will stop late in March. The routes did not produce enough profit, KLM said.

Nagano received 50 centimeters of snow.

adding that there had been no flight delays.

increased police surveillance to shield visitors from rising crime and violence, city officials said. (Reuters)

Corrections

billion French francs (\$665 million).

people that Owens Coming plans to lay off. It is 2,200.

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THE AMERICAS

proved by Alger Tobacco Firm's Memos Took Aim at the Young

A 'Smoking Gun'? Secret Documents Depict R.J. Reynolds as Avid to Win Over Teenagers

> By John Mintz and Saundra Torry Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — R. J. Reynolds Tobacco, the second-largest cigarette company in the United States, sought for decades to reverse the declining sales of its brands by developing ag-gressive marketing proposals to reach adolescents as young as 14 years old, according to company documents.

The 81 internal memos and other documents, released Wednesday and covering the period from 1973 to 1990, contrast sharply with the company's declarations that it does not woo young people. The papers depict a company that seemed to have decided that its future depended on recruiting a new generation of smokers.

Many of the documents outline the thinking that led up to the 1988 introduction of its Joe Camel cartoon advertising campaign. The campaign, critit ized by smoking foes as an appeal to children, was ended last year by the company.

Tobacco companies' marketing to youth has become the major focus of the national debate about smoking. The Food and Drug Administration has asserted authority over tobacco products in an effort to reduce youth smoking, also a primary goal of the proposed national tobacco settlement that Congress will consider when it returns.

Wednesday, RJR repeated its denial that it had advertised to young people and said it remained committed to reducing smoking by youths. The doc-uments were taken out of context, the company said

The documents, most of which have never before been made public, were released by Representative Henry Waxman, a California Democrat who obtained them from law firms that had worked with a California lawyer, Janet Mangini. Ms. Mangini sued R. J. Reynolds to stop the Joe Camel campaign. In September, the company and Ms. Mangini settled the case, and R. J. Reynolds agreed to release internal files on sales to young people.

One of the documents quotes from a Sept. 30, 1974, presentation to the Reynolds board in which the company's marketing vice president, C. A. Tucker, discussed the need to reorient the company's focus to young people.

"They represent tomorrow's ciga-rette business," he said. "As this 14-24 age group matures, they will account for a key share of the total cigarette volume for at least the next 25 years."

By Francis X. Clines

New York Times Service

House has confirmed that President Bill

Clinton will privately give a deposition

Saturday at his lawyer's office, thus

moving Paula Corbin Jones's sexual

misconduct lawsuit to the brink of the

House press secretary, Michael Mc-Curry, indicated that Mr. Clinton would

journey a few blocks to the office of his

lawyer, Robert Bennett, about 10 A.M.,

thereby denying Mrs. Jones and her

lawyers the graphic trappings of the

White House grounds when they ques-

tion him under oath about his sex life.

· Mrs. Jones is expected to be at the

session, which her representatives are

portraying as a confrontation, while

Judge Susan Webber Wright of U.S.

District Court in Arkansas will be avail-

able, if only by telephone, to settle any

In brief, oblique remarks, the White

public trial scheduled for May.

WASHINGTON - The White

clear for our established brands: 1. Direct advertising appeal to the younger smokers.

Some foes of the tobacco industry said the documents could damage prospects for congressional passage of the tobacco settlement, in which the in-dustry would pay billions of dollars in exchange for some protection against

A former Food and Drug Admin-istration commissioner, David Kessler, who has criticized the settlement, said the documents will have profound effects because now "there's no ques-tion" that the industry courted children. "If you are looking for a smoking gun regarding youth smoking, you need to look no further," he said.

The Justice Department also is inestigating whether Reynolds and other tobacco firms committed perjury or hampered federal investigations by saying that they never deliberately marketed to children.

The documents outline Reynolds ex-ecutives' concern about the company's future because of two facts about smoking: First, brand loyalty is so strong that it is extremely tough to get smokers to switch brands. Second, the great majority of smokers — recent research shows 89 percent — started smoking by age 18.

There are numerous references from the mid-1970s to the company's need to appeal to 14- to 24-year-olds. A 1975 memo says that "to ensure increased and longer-term growth for Camel Filter, the brand must increase its share penetration among the 14-24 age

In a July 1980 memo the company's head of marketing, Gerald Long (later Reynolds's chief executive) noted that a competing brand, Marlboro, had 59 percent of the 14- to 17-year-old market, while the Reynolds brands' combined share of this youth market was 19.9 percent. "Hopefully," Mr. Long wrote, "our various planned activities that will be implemented this fall will aid in some way in reducing or correcting these

Starting around 1980, as lawsuits mounted, company officials stopped referring, even internally, to any interest in marketing to anyone younger than 18.

A September 1980 memo, stamped "Confidential," said executives must change their terminology for referring to this "target market."

And memos in the 1980s referring to Joe Camel never explicitly state that the company designed the campaign to attract young smokers, but they seem to

If the president chooses, the video-

taped deposition will amount to his final

word on the matter under Supreme

Court guidelines, unless he and Mr.

Bennett decide he should testify further

at the public trial in Little Rock, Arkan-

sas, scheduled to open May 27. The

videotape will be available for playing

at the trial, with Mrs. Jones's lawyers

having no power to compel Mr. Clinton

The deposition is thus portrayed by

some of the president's advisers as the

point of no return in the confrontation.

with the possibility of a negotiated set-

tlement unlikely and the need for a court

victory vital to the president's legacy. If

there is no earlier dismissal of the case,

the lawsuit is to be heard by a 12member jury, with a unanimous decision

ordered permanently sealed in the event

In theory, the deposition could be

required for Mrs. Jones to succeed.

flammatory civil suit.

to testify in person.

Clinton to Give Deposition in Sex Lawsuit on Saturday



Pinochet foes protesting outside Congress at legislators debated his role.

Pinochet Will Delay Exit, Defense Ministry Says

SANTIAGO — Angered by criticism and threats of a political trial by Congress, General Augusto Pinochet has postponed his retirement from the army. according to the Defense Ministry.

General Pinochet, who remained army

commander after relinquishing power in 1990, ending a 17-year dictatorship, is allowed by the constitution to keep his military post until March 11.

However, he had made it clear that he intended to retire by the end of this month to become a senator for life, as provided for by the constitution, which he helped write in 1980.

Meanwhile, clashes between General Pinochet's supporters and foes shut down a session of the lower house of Congress on Wednesday. Lawmakers were to discuss General Pinochet's role since leaving power and consider a trial to block him from joining the Senate.

Shouts of "Long live Pinochet!"

procedural disputes in the highly in-flammatory civil suit.' of a negotiated settlement before the trial. But Mr. Clinton's advisers reject is being used by anti-Clinton militants

Mrs. Jones's insistence on a personal

apology as part of any cash settlement. Furthermore, they consider that once

the deposition is made, with hours of

questions and answers expected to delve

in detail into Mr. Clinton's sexual his-

tory, the possibility would be slim of

keeping such a record secret in the face

of forces ranging from raw politics to

jor moment for us," a White House adviser said. "With the deposition, the

president knows he will never have to

ever again testify on this, and we're then

accusation that in 1991, when he was

governor of Arkansas and she was a

state worker, he summoned her to his

Mrs. Jones says she is suing to protect

hotel room in Little Rock, exposed him-

self and asked for oral sex.

Mr. Clinton has denied Mrs. Jones's

thinking legacy and court victory."

"Psychologically, this will be a ma-

tabloid titillation

sin!" The insults quickly gave way to scuffles among spectators.

General Pinochet's decision to join

the Senate triggered criticism from law-makers and a threat of a political trial. A brief Defense Ministry statement Wednesday did not give a retirement date for General Pinochet, 82.

Interior Minister Carlos Figueroa said that the government was not concerned by General Pinochet's decision. Pro-government lawmakers, however, criticized him for what the Socialist Party president, Camilo Escalona, called "an act of cowardice."

"He is afraid of entering political debate as a civilian on an equal situation as we are," Mr. Escalona said, "and once again takes shelter in the uniform."

But rightist politicians defended General Pinochet, saying he was reacting to a campaign against him. "They are trying to kill the image of the man who saved Chile," a rightist senator, Julio Lagos,

is being used by anti-Clinton militants

curity procedures would be followed for

the president's visit to Mr. Bennett's

office on New York Avenue, three

blocks northeast of the White House.

This means Mr. Clinton will probably

not be in sight of the mass of news

cameras expected to be on the street

outside the deposition scene. His lim-

ousine will stop at the building either in

a special portable security tent or by

way of the building's garage entrance.

Previously, he offered taped testi-

mony in Whitewater proceedings, but as

a witness, not a defendant. His effort to

delay Mrs. Jones's suit until after he left

office was rejected by the Supreme

Court in May.

The president has been preparing for the deposition for several days, White House officials said, immersing himself

in the likely questions of Mrs. Jones's

lawyers from the Dallas firm of Rader,

They have already indicated their in-

tent to question the president about vari-

ous allegations that he committed adul-

tery and that he used Arkansas state

troopers to summon women, including

Campbell, Fisher & Pyke.

Mrs. Jones.

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The White House said the usual se-

'out to hurt the president.'

POLITICAL NOTES

California Runoff For Congress Seat

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California — In a blow to national Republican leaders, a conservative maverick edged the chosen candidate of his party's establishment in a special congressional primary on Tuesday and will face the widow of Representative Walter Capps in a runoff to fill the seat left vacant by the Democrat's death.

Lois Capps had 62.013 votes, or 45 percent, followed by state Assemblyman Tom Bordonaro, with 40,146 votes, or 29 percent. The Republican Party's choice, Assemblyman Brooks Firestone, trailed with 33,957 votes, or 25 percent.

Because no candidate received more than 50 percent of the vote in the open primary, the top finishers from each party will compete in the runoff on March 10. The winner, who will fill the remainder of the term, is expected to become the favorite in the regular election in November (T)

Labor Secretary Under Investigation

WASHINGTON - The Justice Department has opened a preliminary investigation into an accusation that Labor Secretary Alexis Herman accepted illegal funds in exchange for assisting a business associate while she served as a White House aide during President Bill Clinton's first term, department officials said.

The opening of the investigation is not itself a sign that there is proof of wrongdoing by Ms. Herman. The department is required to look into any specific and credible accusation against a cabinet official. The inquiry will determine only whether there is enough information to justify appointment of an independent counsel who would further investigate the

The secretary's sole accuser is Laurent Yene, a 42-year-old African businessman who has said he gave Ms. Herman money in exchange for access to the White House, officials

Ms. Herman's lawyer, Neil Eggleston, said, "These allegations against Secretary Herman are just not

Voters Shift Favor To Republicans

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan team of polisters says that two trends threaten Democratic prospects in the November congressional elections: the movement of older voters and "soccer mons" toward the Repub-

A Republican, Ed Goeas, and a Democrat, Celinda Lake, who have been conducting similar polls since 1991, both agreed that Democratic prospects of winning back the House are weak.

A survey of 1,000 people found that those over 65 are now inclined to vote for a Republican congressional candidate over a Democrat by 41 percent to 36 percent, compared with a 1993 split favoring the Democrat

36 percent to 34 percent.
Among mothers of children living at home, a very rough approximation of the group that came to be known as 'soccer moms' in the 1996 election. 46 percent said they are likely to vote for Republican congressional candidates and 36 percent said they would vote for Democrats. (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Wade Henry, a black real estate agent from Phoenix, speaking to President Bill Clinton's advisory board on race relations: "I pay taxes. I want value for my dollar. I appreciate you being here, but I want something done. If not, then stop wasting my money." (NYT)

Trafficking in Nurses

Ring Obtained Over 500 Fraudulent Visas

By Katharine Q. Seelye New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — More than 500 nurses were smuggled into the United States from the Philippines and South Korea over the last several years by an illegal ring that capitalized on the nationwide nursing shortage that plagued hospitals and nursing homes earlier in the

Federal officials said this was the first time that a smuggling network involving so many people with such high professional skills had been uncovered. "We've never found a case of this

magnitude," said Paul Coggins of Dallas, the U.S. anorney for the northern district of Texas, where many of the foreign nurses worked.

Apart from the numbers involved, the case is extraordinary because the workers were not brought into the United States under blankets in trucks coming across the Mexican border but on major airlines with fraudulently obtained visas.

The nurses were funneled to at least 35 states and cost American nurses an estimated \$13 million in lost salaries by taking jobs at substandard wages, according to Mr. Coggins's office.

Five Americans pleaded guilty Wednesday to fraud charges in connection with the smuggling ring. The five, one in New Jersey, one in Texas and three in California, lured the foreign nurses into their smuggling ring by promising them specific jobs in the United States.

Under a congressionally approved program from 1989-95, to alleviate the nursing shortage, a foreign nurse who promised could obtain a special visa to the United States. The defendants admitted they had lied to the government by saying they were unable to find American nurses to fill the positions.

The nurses paid the operatives \$1.500

to \$7,500 to obtain the visas and to bring them to the United States, where they were often sent to jobs different from those they had been promised, federal prosecutors said Prosecutors said 570 nurses had been

illegally placed in positions, paid sub-standard wages and lived in crowded, unsanitary conditions.Lynn Ligon, a spokesman for the Dallas office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. said he expected the nurses to "scatter to the four winds." If found, they could be charged with fraud and deported.

Away From Politics

• Excedrin became the first overthe-counter migraine medicine when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved an extra-strength version of the painkiller powerful enough to treat mild to moderate

 Americans with college degrees have less sex than those who finished only high school, and those who went to graduate school have even less,

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according to a study in American Demographics magazine. High school graduates average 58 sexual contacts a year, while those with some college experience average 62. Those with four-year college degrees average 56 and those who have been to graduate school average 50. (AP)

hunters in a Louisiana bayou collided with an oil rig crew boat near Intracoastal City, killing five of the hunters. One was injured and another was missing. No one aboard the crew boat, the Geerd Tide, was hurt in the

• A boat carrying seven duck

Drop in Murder Rates Skips Some Cities

By Michael Janofsky New York Times Service

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky - Contrary to the trends that show homicide rates falling in many of the country's largest cities since 1994, some American cities with populations of several hundred thousand are experiencing inстеаses in killings.

Officials in Louisville, Kentucky, say that since crack cocaine began flooding into the city in the early 1990s, the homicide rate has soared. In 1997, according to federal and local authorities. homicides in Louisville jumped to a 17year high of 68

In Fort Wayne, Indiana, last year, the police recorded 37 killings, up from 13

The Nashville metropolitan area, one of the fastest-growing in the country, with 525,000 people, logged a record 112 homicides last year.

In some medium-sized cities, the murder rate has been fluctuating after rising in the early 1990s. Among them were Cincinnati, where homicides jumped to 40 in 1997 from 32 in 1996, and Chattanooga, Tennessee, where they rose to 36 in 1997 from 21 in 1996. Both cities had years in this decade in which they had more killings than in

Not all medium-sized cities are see ing rising homicide rates. The police in Memphis, Tennessee, redeployed many officers into neighborhoods as part of a stepped-up effort at community policing, and homicides dropped last year to

157 from 181 in 1996 and 190 in 1995. With similar efforts in El Paso, Texas, the number of killings fell to 27 last year from 32 in 1996.

But the surge in killings elsewhere. often a byproduct of drug activity, contrast sharply with the decline in the overall crime rate across the country.

Though there is much debate about declines and increases in murder rates, police officials and others point to evidence of a rising and more violent drug trade in medium-sized cities and the fact that some of these cities are just catching up with the latest trends in crime-

"Smaller cities are going through what bigger cities went through five years ago," said Alfred Blumstein, a professor of public policy at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, referring to drug use contributing to homicides.

"There is a lag effect in the smaller cities, caused not necessarily by the saturation of drugs in big cities but the propagation of markets. There may be entrepreneurs from big cities looking to expand or new entrepreneurs in small

cities looking to get involved."
In any case, Mr. Blumstein said, the influx of drugs into cities such as Louisville and Nashville with their underserved markets is touching off the same cycle of violence that big cities have long been accustomed to: territorial disputes between dealers leading to gunplay, then increased efforts by law-enforcement agencies and community groups to fight the rising crime.

Only then do crime rates fall, lawenforcement specialists say, as they have in New York, Los Angeles and other large cities.

Comparing data for cities in the first six months of 1997 with those of the same period in 1996, the latest statistics available from the Justice Department show that crime dropped 6 percent in cities with populations of more than 250,000 and fell 1 percent to 3 percent in suburban and rural areas. Reflecting the drop in the larger cities, the overall homicide rate for these areas fell 9 percent.

Citing places such as Louisville, where the police last year linked one of every four killings to drugs, and Nashville, where nearly one of every two killings was linked to drugs, federal law-enforcement officials say it is evident that illegal drugs - crack, powder cocaine, heroin and more recently methamphetamine, an all-purpose drug that can be smoked, snorted or injected are playing a larger role in violent

crimes outside the largest U.S. cities. Officials say the attractiveness of smaller cities to drug dealers also stems from their convenient location along interstate highways, which makes distribution easier and faster, and the smaller size of their police departments.

"We've seen an increase in activity all over the Midwest," said Larry Galina, special agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration in charge of Kentucky. Ohio and Michigan. "Vi-Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan. olence is going up, and more teen-agers are getting involved. Why? Because of an increase in drugs. It all fits in."

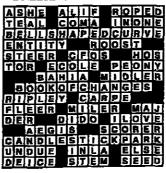
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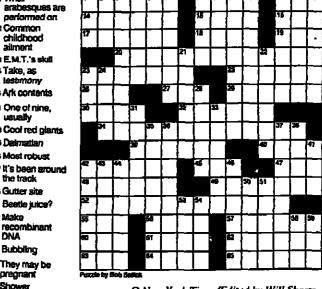
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By Michael Richardson International Herold Tribune

SINGAPORE - Reflecting American concern about the destablizing effects of East Asia's financial turmoil, Defense Secretary William Cohen said Thursday that if flash points in the in South Korea and many other East Asian coun-region "from Korea to the Taiwan Strait and tries affected by the economic downturn. beyond" were ignited they would have "scorching effects on the security and economies" of countries around the globe.

most dangerous places on Earth," he said that if the two parts of the peninsula. the United States did not remain firmly committed to defending South Korea, "then that assault on the South," he said. "The fact that we might very well send a signal to the North that have some 37,000 troops in South Korea that are and around the globe."

He said that many A now is the time to take advantage of the economic well prepared to defend against such an attack difficulties of the South.'

officials traveling with Mr. Cohen said that the rent difficulties they are experiencing sends a East Asian economic crisis could cause civil unrest in some countries and conflict between others.

them stationed in Japan and South Korea.

To save money, military spending is being cut

Mr. Cohen, who will visit South Korea next week on the last stop of a seven-nation East Asian tour, said that North Korean forces were sta-Citing the Korean Peninsula as "one of the nioned close to the Demilitarized Zone dividing

and the fact that we have indeed provided some In recent comments in Malaysia and Indonesia, economic assistance to South Korea in the curpositive signal that we are supporting the South

In Singapore on Thursday, Mr. Cohen used the link between economic difficulties and instability to reinforce the case for the continued presence of 100,000 U.S. troops in the region, most of them stationed in Japan and South Korea.

Analysts said that Mr. Cohen's remarks remarks remarks remarks remarks remarks the region that the U.S. intends to maintain a military presence in South Korea even if the two dock being built at Changi, on the northeast naval dock b weakness and that growing congressional op-position to use of U.S. money to bail out troubled Asian economies might encourage such adventurism by further weakening the South.

In a speech American officials said was in-

tended to set out key themes of U.S. engagement in East Asia in difficult and uncertain times, Mr. Cohen that the region had "potential flash points from Korea to the Taiwan Strait and beyond that,

He said that many Asian countries supported "the integral role of American military power as a stabilizing force in the region."

The Singaporean defense minister, Tony Tan bilateral security alliance for the long term, "Keng Yam, announced Thursday that U.S. aircraft carriers and other warships could call free of

facilities. But aircraft carriers based in the Pacific any nation in the region. Ocean, which regularly pass through the Malacca Strait on their way to and from patrol duty in the oil-rich Gulf, have to anchor in Singapore Harbor because there is no naval berth large enough to accommodate them.

Mr. Tan said that the "presence of U.S. forces "It would not take long to mount a massive assault on the South," he said. "The fact that we have some 27 000 mean in South Versa that we that presence.

Mr. Cohen said that Washington and Seoul agreed last month on the need to "maintain our

while adapting it to changing circumstances. forward "Again, this is a very important statement to nation."

U.S. military ships and planes already have extensive access to Singapore bases and resupply Japanese security alliance did not seek to isolate

Beijing has repeatedly said that the alliance was provocatively expanded to cover Taiwan. China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and says it will invade the island if it declares independence.

Mr. Cohen, who will fly to Beijing this week. end after visiting Thailand on Friday and Saturday, said that no nation had benefited more than China from what he called the stabilizing effect of America's security engagement in Asia.

"Today, China is an Asian power, and right-fully so," he said. "The United States does not fear this, nor do we view China as an adversary. Rather, we seek to encourage China to step forward as a responsible and cooperative great

A Top Democrat

IMF's Bailouts

Monetary Fund.

Threatens to Fight

Remors
WASHINGTON — The second-

ranking Democrat in the House of Rep-

resentatives, David Bonior, has

threatened to oppose bailouts for Asian

economies as some Republicans rallied against funding for the International

"We cannot close our eyes to the in-

terdependence of the global economy," Mr. Bonior of Michigan, the minority whip, said. "We need to help. But this

help should not be a bailout for bankers,

imposes an economic stranglehold on

working people, tramples democratic

rights, ignores the underlying causes of instability, and then asks the American taxpayer to foot the bill," he added.

The voice of skepticism --- from Pres-

ident Bill Clinton's party - added to

congressional opposition to the IMF's multibillion-dollar bailouts for South

Korea, Indonesia and Thailand. Mr.

Bonior said the administration should use

its leverage to expand democratic rights

and to raise wages and living standards in

gress will be asked to approve an extra \$3.5 billion for the IMF for an emergency

lending facility and \$15 billion to cover

BRIEFLY

When it reconvenes this month, Con-

hard-hit Asian countries.

"We cannot support a bailout that

speculators or repressive dictators.

Food Riots Disclosed By Indonesian Paper

JAKARTA - Riots erupted in several towns in East Java Province this week after the price of basic food shot up during Indonesia's economic crisis, the Jakarta Post newspaper reported Thursday.

It quoted the armed forces spokesman, Brigadier General Wahab Mokodongan, as saying that the riots

The report, which could not be immediately confirmed, followed panic Java town of Banyuwangi on Monday buying of food in the capital last week as residents fearing skyrocketing prices crammed supermarkets.

January Panya Control of Panya Control

Qantas Trims Flights on **Asian Routes**

MELBOURNE - Qantas Airways Ltd. said Thursday it would cut back on flights into economically distressed Southeast Asia next month, saying as many as 70 percent of its seats on those routes were empty.

Qantas, considered one of the region's stronger airlines, said it would suspend some of its flights connecting Australia with Jakarta, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur starting Feb. 21.

The airline withdrew this month from

South Korea, where the flow of passengers leaving for Australia had virtually dried up because of the financial crisis there.

ing to offset the Asian downturn but said they were no match for the speed and scale of Asia's economic weakness.

"Certainly, I would have to say we are suffering more from the downturn than we are getting from any upturn," said Qantas's commercial executive general manager, Geoff Dixon.

He described the canceled Southeast Asian flights as "development routes" that had always lost money and said Qantas would keep its core links with Indonesia. Thailand and Malaysia.

'What we've really done is take out those routes that were not making money at any rate," Mr. Dixon said.

Services to be scrapped are the twiceweekly flights between Brisbane and Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, the twiceweekly flights between Melbourne and Jakarta and the thrice-weekly flights between Brisbane and Bangkok.

Qantas said it would merge its Perth-Bangkok and Perth-Jakarta routes into a Perth-Jakarta-Bangkok service.

Qantas plans to divert jets from the canceled routes to bolster service into India, China and the Philippines, where business is better, Mr. Dixon said.

The airline and its Australia-based rival, Ansen International, which also pulled out of South Korea this month, are continuing to review their Asian routes. Both said Thursday they also were monitoring Hong Kong, where tourism has been falling.
Separately, Australia's prime minis-

ter, John Howard, said the country's economy was strong enough to cope with any fallout from the Indonesian

He said Indonesia's crisis was "a matter of great political significance" but said, "I don't think there's any cause for any direct, immediate concern so far as the Australian economy is con-

Indonesia's financial crisis has depressed the currency, the rupiah, and the price of many basic goods has increased across the world's fourth most populous

"Some stores sold rice more expensive than the price established by the logistic agency." General Mokodongan

The official Antara press agency said that there were disturbances in the east

(125 miles) southeast of the provincial capital of Surabaya, hundreds of people destroyed stores, supermarkets and kiosks, the Jakarta Post reported.

At least 15 shops were destroyed by rioters in Jember, who went on the rampage in search of food, it said. Similar disturbances were reported in two other towns, the newspaper added. In response, the government deployed

roads of Surabaya, Indonesia's second-No incidents were reported Wednes-

hundreds of security personnel near

main supermarkets and along the main



WATERY GRAVE — At least 20 Filipino seamen are dead or missing in the sinking of a Panamanianregistered freighter, the New Baron, which ran aground in the stormy Sea of Japan less than a kilometer off the South Korean town of Ulsan on Thursday. This photograph shows the freighter just before it sank.

day or Thursday. The country's powerinvestor confidence, said Wednesday that the country was stable.

■ 5 Ask French for Refuge

Five people from the disputed ter-

ritory of East Timor sought refuge in the bassy but offered no further details. ful military, in an apparent bid to restore French Embassy in Jakarta on Thursday, The Associated Press reported.

fence, said Dominique Ruubert, a

spokesman for the embassy. He said they were still inside the em- day.

In other East Timor news, rebels ambushed a car and shot and killed two The East Timorese leaped over the members of the civilian defense force in

the territory, Colonel Slamet Sidabutar, chief of the local military, said Thurs-

the U.S. share of replenishing IMF funds. Urging fellow Republicans to oppose new funding unless the IMF undergoes drastic changes, Senator Lauch Faircloth of North Carolina, said the policies of the IMF and the administration were "part of the problem, not the solution."

India and Pakistan Agree to More Talks

DHAKA, Bangladesh - The prime ministers of India and Pakistan agreed Thursday to continue top-level contacts aimed at reducing tension between the historic rivals, Indian officials said.

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral of India and his Pakistani counterpart. Mian Nawaz Sharif, met here on the sidelines of a regional business conference with Bangladesh. The meeting was the fourth in a series between the two men since March. (Reuters)

Vietnam Assails

Vatican Report HANOI - Vietnam accused the Vatican news outlet Fides of "slander" Thursday, saying a report that accused Hanoi of barring two Roman Catholic priests from attending a church synod had of-fended the government.

"There's no issue about refusing exit visas for the two priests," said Phan Thuy Thanh, a spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry. "I must make clear these two men were not included in the list that the Catholic Bishop's Council submitted for travel procedures."

Fides is the weekly report of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, the Vatican's missionary arm that deals with church affairs in developing nations.

Bangladesh Rebels Set Disarmament

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh -Tribal rebels in the southeastern Chittagong Hill Tracts will give up their weapons next month under a Dec. 2 peace treaty with the govemment, officials said Thursday.

The first 400 Shanti Bahini insurgents will disarm Feb. 9 in a ceremony in the hill town of Khagrachhari, and all will surrender their weapons by the end of the month. government officials and Shanti Bahini leaders agreed Thursday. The rebels have fought for autonomy in Hill Tracts since 1973. (Reuters)

For the Record

An Afghan plane believed to have strayed off course instead apparently ran out of fuel before it стаshed Tuesday into a mountain in southwestern Pakistan, killing all 51 people on board, a Pakistani press agency has reported. (AP)

JAKARTA: Deal With IMF Targets Cartels Controlled by Leader's Family and Friends But the country faces steep hurdles omy, eliminate cartels and monopolies,

Continued from Page 1

The military has said it is ready to quell outbreaks of violence as prices rise, factories are forced to close and people lose their jobs. On Thursday, local newspapers reported riots in three towns in eastern Java where food supplies had run short.

in Indonesia, when Mr. Suharto appears the program." The airline said its routes to Britain, set to be named in March to a seventh with his leadership grows. Many analysts foresee widespread unrest amid increasing economic hardships compounded by long-simmering anger over the repressiveness and high-handedness of Mr. Suharto's military-based government.

scenes leadership position to center stage, crisis.

embracing and endorsing austerity mea-sures that he had resisted for months. He before it can recover. said he would preside over a new cabinet committee to oversee the economy.

Michel Camdessus, who as managing director of the IMF signed the agreement ava where food supplies had run short. wishes to take personal responsibility slowed economic activity and could The crisis comes at a critical moment for the quick and full implementation of cause widespread bankruptcies. This revitalized program is bold and

the United States and Europe were help-five-year term, even as dissatisfaction far-reaching," Mr. Camdessus added, restored until Mr. Suharto ends his which would have free reign to set in-"addressing all of the critical problem areas in the economy.

James Wolfenson, the head of the World Bank, also praised the measures, saying, "I am confident that if the program is implemented with the deter-In personally signing the "letter of mination and commitment that I myself tent" with the IMF, Mr. Suharto have seen, Indonesia should be able soon mination and commitment that I myself stepped from his accustomed behind-the- to begin to overcome its economic

On the economic front, Indonesia must address a burden of private-sector dollar debt estimated at \$65 billion. The debt, which has grown increasingly burwith Indonesia, said, "President Suharto" densome as the rupiah has declined, has

On the political front, analysts say confidence in t emmeni cannoi be lifelong refusal to designate a successor. terest rates. New measures would be

The measures announced Thursday challenge an entrenched system founded on a network of cronyism, corruption and back-room deals that Mr. Suharto has family and friends while bringing rising prosperity to most of Indonesia's 200

devolve fiscal management to the central bank and remove most price supports.

Among other key measures announced Thursday, Indonesia is to phase out subsidies on fuel and electricity, and allow government-regulated commodities — except for the crucial staple of rice — to trade freely, allowing prices to rise. Government control of monetary

formulated to attempt to restore the health of the ailing banking system.

Mr. Suharto also agreed to tighten an annual budget that drew harsh criticism and created over three decades, enriching his caused the currency to drop when it was announced last week. Growth targets are to be scaled down to zero from a previous million people. The measures are de- target of 4 percent — although many econsigned to open the workings of the econ-omists predict a severe recession this year.

DOCTOR: Medical Emergencies Aboard Increase, but Rules on Gear Stay the Same

suffered a cardiac arrest.

But when Dr. Knight tore open the medical kit that the Delta flight attendants handed him, he found a stethoscope and syringes, but not the equipment he needed most: a breathing tube and a device to pump oxygen into the lungs. to report medical Despite continuous cardiopulmonary re- emergencies to the suscitation, the two men failed to revive the young woman.

She was declared dead when the plane

"The thing that's been so hard about this for me - I watched a 25-year-old girl die, essentially drown, with what I think is the ability to have made a difference," Dr. Knight said. "And I did

not have the equipment."

Delta Air Lines, which carries more passengers than any other U.S. airline, says that its planes are equipped with the medical emergency equipment required correctly in the incident.

Continued from Page 1

a day in 1996, according to data collected by the Air Transport Association, 25-year-old woman, Lashann Royal of Deerfield Beach, Florida, who had

a day in 1996, according to data collected by the Air Transport Association, the trade group for the major airlines.

Yet federal rules for medical equip
Yet federal rules for medical equip
Yet federal rules for medical equip
a person whose heart has stopped. Some have also asked Congress to what we were seeing, he said.

Air travel in the United States has would protect doctors and others from increased enormously, and experts have

ment on large passenger airplanes have being sued after trying to treat a sick or not been revised since 1986. Flight at-injured person during a flight. tendants are not required to be trained in basic rescue procedures such as car-fibrillators on its over-water flights in diopulmonary resuscitation. Airlines are July. Tuesday, three weeks after Ms. Roy-

not even required Federal Aviation

Administration.
"I would say
that the majority of
airlines do not train their people," said James Atkins, a pro-fessor of internal medicine at the Uni-

versity of Texas Southwestern Medical At a congressional hearing last May, representatives of medical organizations, a flight attendants' group and

agency to revise the list of standard te concern so far Reported medical emergencies on airliners making long or over-water conorny is con-board U.S. airliners have increased from flights carry defibrillators — devices (Reuters, AFP) about 3 a day during the late 1980s to 29 that administer an electric shock to

The medical kit required on U.S. airplanes 'is pretty minimal.'

members of the public urged the aviation by the Federal Aviation Administration medical equipment, to require more and that its crew followed all procedures extensive medical training for flight treat chest pain, low blood sugar, asthma attendants and to consider requiring that

In Europe, Crews Trained to Cope With Trouble

By Barry James International Herold Tribuna

perts say airline cabin crews throughout Europe are equipped and trained to deal air, including heart attacks, strokes and

childbuth. How well equipped depends on the size of the aircraft. Commuter planes carrying up to 30 passengers must carry and conditions with which cabin crews cedure they thought necessary under the a first aid kit conforming broadly with are expected to be familiar. They include circumstances. minimum requirements set by the In- choking, stress, allergic reactions, hyternational Civil Aviation Organization

in Montreal fer all carriers. Larger aircraft must also carry heavyduty medical packs for use by qualified medical personnel, either passengers or members of the crew, as well as a complete first aid kit for every 100 pas-

the Netherlands are to put into law re-BRUSSELS - Aviation industry ex- quirements by the agency regarding ation Authorities to oversee rule-making medical emergencies on airplanes. The regulations are to go into effect April 1, set of standards. with most medical emergencies in the although in practice they are already followed at member airlines, officials at lawsuits for wrongful medical procethe organization said.

The requirements set by the agency include a daunting list of emergencies perventilation, epilepsy, heart attacks, strokes, shock, diabetes, asthma, burns, wounds, fractures and childbirth.

Although the medical kits do not legally have to include a defibrillator used assistance is available, serious emergento restore heart rhythm, crews are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

National governments are responsible such emergencies are held by individual Sengers.

The 15 members of the European Unformal arrangements are responsible such emergence for airline safety in Europe, and they governments.

ion belong to the Joint Aviation Auapprove and monitor aircraft or equipthorities based near Schiphol Airport in ment.

The governments set up the Joint Avi-

so that airlines operate under a common Industry officials said the threat of dures weighs less heavily in Europe than in the United States. They said captains

would authorize any emergency pro-

Industry officials said that because Europe is more densely populated than the United States and most aircraft are within less than 30 minutes' flying time from an airport where qualified medical cies are more likely to be dealt with on the ground than in the air. Statistics on

and an expanded

medical kit on all flights starting this summer. American has said it will provide defibrillators and expanded med-

American Airlines began carrying de-

al's death, Delta

ical kits on all flights by next year. The medical kit on Dr. Knight's flight last month contained the standard items specified by the 1986 rule. They include a stethoscope, an instrument for measuring blood pressure, needles and syringes, and plastic tubes that can be placed in the mouth to keep the tongue and allergic reactions.

But the plane had no defibrillator, which offers the best chance of saving someone whose heart has stopped. In the "If you're going to give mouth-to-

mouth resuscitation too long, they're going to regurgitate," he explained. A good."

breathing tube would prevent the patient

Dr. 1 from choking. "If they're going to call a doctor to come forward but not equip him with the right stuff," Dr. Knight said, "why call

and several — including Qantas Airways, Virgin Atlantic Airways and Air Zimbabwe — carry defibrillators. Earlier this month, a Virgin Atlantic passenger became the first person to be

defibrillated in U.S. airspace. The medical kit now required by the aviation agency "is pretty minimal," said David McKenas, American Airlines' corporate medical director, explaining why the company decided to add small, portable defibrillators on over-water flights. "For American Air- everything you could have done. In this lines, we saw that we just did not carry case, it's not that way."

linked the growth in airborne medical emergency to this and to the aging of the population and more frequent travel by people with chronic illnesses. The new information comes from nine member airlines - representing 90 percent of the announced plans to U.S. passenger market — which col-put defibrillators lected data on in-flight medical emergencies during 1996.

There were 10,471 emergencies reported, an average of 29 per day. Heart disease accounted for 1,020 and was the most frequent category of emergency severe enough to divert a flight.

The report contains no information on how many people die during medical emergencies on U.S. airline flights. 'Nobody really knows that,'' said Jon Jordan, the aviation agency's federal air surgeon. A passenger who dies during a flight is not officially pronounced dead until arrival at a hospital or a coroner's down, as well as a handful of drugs to office, and airlines are not required to obtain follow-up information, he said.

Dr. Jordan said that when the current rules for the in-flight medical kit were drawn up, some medical groups "cautioned us against putting a lot of soabsence of one, Dr. Knight looked for a phisticated equipment or medications on breathing tube to administer oxygen. drugs and devices, in inexperienced "could do more damage than

medical equipment. Dr. Knight said he was encouraged by Many foreign airlines provide more Delta's decision this week to provide extensive medical kits than U.S. carriers, defibrillators and expand its medical kit, but he thought the aviation agency ought to require resuscitation training for all flight attendants and better medical kits

on all airlines.

Dr. Jordan said the aviation agency

was analyzing a new set of data on

"This has changed my life," Dr. Knight said. "Every night since then, I have relived this. I'm not the sort of person to have nightmares, normally. You go through your training, you see people die all the time. But in a hospital, you slept at the end of the day because you knew that you had done

JA160 130

Montenegro's President Takes Office After Violence when the state of the state of

violent protests that underscored the opposition he will surely face in his mission to gain greater autonomy from Serbia.

"Democracy is our future," President Milo Djukanovic said at a ceremony at the royal palace in Cetinje, the former seat of Montenegro's kings, 25 kilometers (15 miles) west of Podgorica, the

capital.

He said democracy was constantly being tested "by past prejudices, inertia and misunderstanding of the new, as we witnessed these past days."

policemen, were injured Wednesday night as protesters supporting the former president, Momir Bulatovic, travention with international law Interior Ministry said.

Thirteen people were detained Montenegro's deputy interior minat the police.

Allies of the newly elected presharshly criticized Mr. Bulatovic.
"The U.S. government is deeply

augurated Thursday after a night of lobbed stones and firebombs, the and accepted standards," said the envoy, Robert Gelbard.

He said he also held Yugoslavia's overnight, said Vuk Boskovic, president, Slobodan Milosevic, "responsible for supporting these ister. He said some of them had shot demonstrations and for not restraining his colleague, Mr. Bulatovic." Mr. Bulatovic has refused to rec-

ident accused the Yugoslav govern- ognize Mr. Djukanovic's victory in ment of obstructing democracy in the October presidential election, Montenegro, while in Belgrade, the claiming fraud, though foreign obtop U.S. envoy to former Yugoslavia servers have called the elections

concerned and the international turned out in force in response to his favoring independence and Mr. Bucommunity deeply offended by the call for protests. On Wednesday, the latovic's supporters still loyal to Mr.

ment building. Others tossed firebombs at police; some were seen carrying AK-47 automatic rifles.

While Mr. Bulatovic told the crowd that he was no longer president, he did not recognize Mr. Djukanovic's victory. Mr. Djukanovic and his allies said Mr. Milosevic was trying to provoke clashes so he could impose a state of emergency and annul the election results.

The dispute has split the republic generally free and fair.

Mr. Bulatovic's supporters Djukanovic's backers increasingly ese past days."

absolutely outrageous behavior by third day of protests, riot police used Milosevic and Serbia, the other reAt least 51 people, including 45 outgoing President Bulatovic in intear gas, clubs and water cannon to maining republic in Yugoslavia

since the federation broke apart in

Mr. Gelbard also blamed Mr. Milosevic for Yugoslavia's economic and political hardship, and for the country's pariah status.

"We, the United States, hope that this can be changed, but it is up to Slobodan Milosevic and his friends to lead this country toward a better life," he said.

Mr. Gelbard's comments signaled growing American impa-tience over Mr. Milosevic's failure to meet his commitments under the Dayton peace accord for Bosnia and over the political crises in Montenegro and Serbia, where the Albanian-majority province of Kosovo is seething with discontent. (Reuters, AP)

the EU by a WTO dispute panel last year. Reuters Jobless Shut Elite Paris School

BRIEFLY

EU Is Backed on Treated Beef

BRUSSELS - A World Trade Organization ruling

will allow the European Union to keep its ban on imports

of hormone-treated beef, at least for the time being. EU

sources said Thursday.

One EU source said the ruling by the WTO appeals

body, to be officially released Friday, supported the bloc's

position in banning imports of the meat, a policy that has

been fought by the United States and Canada, which say

they have lost hundreds of millions of dollars in trade as a

A European Commission source described the ruling

as "a major turnaround" from an initial decision against

result of the ban that came into force in 1989.

PARIS - Activists for the unemployed maintained pressure on the French government Thursday, forcing one of the country's most prestigious schools to close as the movement widened to students. A new poll indicated that

most French people feel the protests are justified.

The Education Ministry said it had no choice but to close the famed Ecole Normale Superieure "until further notice" because about 100 protesters refused to end their sit-in at the campus in Paris's Latin Quarter. Police set up

a heavy cordon around the school. The activists have been holding nationwide demonstrations for more than six weeks to demand greater government aid as France's jobless rate hovers at 12.4

Turks to Meet EU Lawmakers

ANKARA — Some members of Turkey's Parliament will attend a meeting with European Union parliamentarians in February, despite a pledge by Ankara to suspend political dialogue with the EU, the Anatolian News Agency said Thursday.

The agency quoted the Turkish group's chairman, Bulent Akurcali, a member of the governing Motherland Party, as saying the meeting in Brussels would cover the customs union between Turkey and the EU as well as Turkey's faltering bid to join the bloc.

1 Top Democrat Threatens to Fight

After Forging Peace in Slavonia, UN Turns It Over to Croatia IMF Bailouts BOROVO NASELJE The serie to the House of Re Deal Borner

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2. Note the later, 2.

two years. an old Communist workers' the European Union recognized Croatia as an independent country. Zagreb finally took control of all the land

within its borders. lowed by an exchange of gifts former Yugoslavia. - the president's office was

given a case containing a UN flag and brooch, while the Croatia — The United Na-tions handed back the former Croatian Army shell case. The separatist Serb region of East- former UN administrator of ern Slavonia to Croatia on Eastern Slavonia, William Thursday after running it for Walker, looked somewhat sur-Thursday after running it for vo years. prised at the gift, but the mil-ln a symbolic ceremony in itary green case was opened to reveal six bottles of Croatian club, six years to the day after wine, with hand-painted labels, nestling in straw --- and

no shells in sight. It was a gesture that summed up the occasion the celebration of the peaceful Several long speeches from reintegration of a region that government, UN and Serb had seen some of the worst community officials were fol- fighting in the war in the

Rebel Serbs, backed by the ceeded in demilitarizing the

they opposed Croatia's bid for independence from the Yugoslav federation.

In a three-month siege, they reduced the regional cap-ital, Vukovar, to ruins and forced some 80,000 Croats into exile. Two years ago at the Bos-

nian peace conference in Dayton, Ohio, an agreement was signed allowing the UN to preside over a gradual reintegration of Eastern Slavonia into Croatia proper.

live in sovereign Croatia. With Serb and Croat sus-

picions still running high, there had been worry that violence would accompany the transfer of authority. But the process was peace-

ful, a fact praised by top Croatian government representatives and international officials. "What we have achieved

clearly demonstrates that this region is an example of a successful peace operation," said Few thought it would work, but the United Nations succeeded in demilitarizing the Robert Gelbard, the senior bracing the basic agreements, tudes to President Franjo Tudjman. he wrote in a letter, "Croatia regard has acknowledged that it city."

powerful Yugoslav People's area, holding local elections U.S. envoy for Yugoslavia could not be whole and united Army, took the area, which and persuading local Serbs and its former republics, unless it was also tolerant and borders Serbia, in 1991 when that they could, and should, praised Zagreb for "signif-diverse." icant progress" on the road to democracy, but said Croatia was much unfinished busi-

> postwar nation-building in neighboring Bosnia and alproved much more complex than initially apparent. Most lowing all refugees who fled Croats want to go back, but Serb-Croat fighting on Croat their homes are occupied by tian territory to return. "It is our expectation that Croatian Serbs or anybody

> who wants to can return to their homes," he said.
>
> President Bill Clinton also compensation for property commended Zagreb. By em- and "nondiscriminatory attibracing the basic agreements, tudes to all citizens of Croatia he wrote in a letter, "Croatia regardless of their ethni-

had more obligations to meet

- honoring commitments to

Mr. Walker said that there

ness and that the process of

two-way refugee returns had

their homes are occupied by 60,000 Serb refugees. A local Serb leader, Vojislav Stanimirovic, said Zagreb

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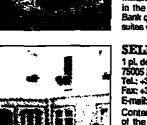
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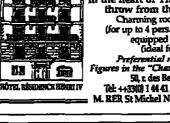
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Do They Want Peace?

ing for lack of trust, imagination and determination. That is clear from a new Israeli proposal that suffers from a shortage of all three ingredients required to revive negotiations with the Palestinians. The cabinet's idea of an acceptable plan for the next set of Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank is laced with conditions and burdened by a sense that the government no longer has its heart in making peace with the Palestinians.

The peace effort has arrived at this discouraging point because Israeli and Palestinian leaders have forgotten how to talk to one another, no longer believe one another and are content to let the opponents of peace in both camps dictate the terms of negotiation. That is evident in everything from Palestinian laxity about terrorism to cramped Is-

raeli bargaining proposals.

The two sides are now entangled over the issue of reciprocity, a way of reducing the central idea of the Oslo accords — land for peace — to a legalistic debate over which party is abiding by the 1997 agreement to place the West Bank city of Hebron largely under Palestinian control. Both sides have legitimate complaints. The Israelis have failed to proceed with the additional withdrawals they promised, while the Palestinians have moved erratically on security cooperation issues. But the reciprocity debate is serving more as a way to score points than to resolve differences, and it is

undermining the larger peace effort sketched out in Oslo.

There now seems little chance that Bill Clinton can rejuvenate the peace talks when he meets separately next week with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Renewed movement may require changes beyond Mr. Clinton's control, including greater flexibility from the Israeli cabinet, which on Wednesday defined Israel's vital interests in the West Bank in the broadest terms. A day earlier it had spelled out its position on reciprocity and the next round of troop withdrawals.

Washington must soon decide whether to try to referee the reciprocity debate or to advance its own ideas for peace, leaping beyond the current impasse. Neither option promises success, but either would be preferable to

letting the peace collapse.

When he meets Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Clinton should press for an Israeli withdrawal from an additional 10 percent or more of West Bank territory that begins quickly and is not hedged with preconditions. Mr. Arafat should be told that he cannot justify his own inexcusable lack of consistency on security issues with complaints about Israeli negotiating tactics.

These will not be easy meetings for Mr. Clinton. But America's indispensable role is to remind Israeli and Palestinian leaders of their own interest in completing the peace. —THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Three Baltic Partners

staked a more deserving claim to be included in the institutions of the democratic West than the tiny Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Independent between the world wars, the three nations were forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940 and suffered greatly thereafter, with many of their citizens deported to Siberia. Independence movements in all three republics played a leading role in hastening the breakup of the Soviet Union, and since 1991 the three reborn nations have set the standard for democratization and free market reform. All three now seek inclusion in NATO, the European Union and other Western organizations.

To the extent that they have been rebuffed, it is not because they are less deserving than Poland or Hungary but because they are smaller and closer to Russia. Many in Moscow still regard the three Baltic nations as lying within Russia's sphere of influence. This may be historically understandable, but it is morally unacceptable, as the Clinton administration has stated clearly. Still, many in America and even more in Russia by moving too quickly to welcome the Balts.

The result is a diplomatic compromise, a Charter of Partnership to be signed this Friday in Washington by President Bill Clinton and the three Baltic presidents. The charter, negotiated over the period of a year, does not give the Baltic nations everything they would like. It is not a U.S. security guarantee; it will not be ratified by Congress; it does not guarantee their eventual NATO membership. It lumps them together when on a certain level they would like to be treated as what they are - separate nations with very different histories, cultures and languages.

· Nonetheless, the charter represents an important step forward in their inclusion into the West.

It properly puts on record America's "real, profound and enduring in-terest" in the independence and se-

Of the newly liberated nations of curity of these three democracies. In Europe, none have worked harder or the charter, the three nations commit to working toward good relations with all their neighbors, including Russia; the United States commits to supporting their aspirations to join NATO. It enshrines the principle that nations should associate on a voluntary basis, not on outdated notions of great-power spheres of influence. That principle is worth something only if it applies to

every country, no matter how small or inconveniently situated. A compromise document like this is not without dangers. Some Europeans may seek to absolve themselves of any responsibility toward the Baltics, citing the U.S. role, and may propose the charter as a substitute for EU or NATO membership — which it is not. Hypothetically, it could push Russia toward nationalism, or the Balts toward provocative behavior.

In practice, though, the charter is more likely to have the opposite effect - to encourage both Russia and the Baltics to try to get along. Signs of that already are evident. Russia is moving slowly toward border treaties with the three; Estonia and Latvia are moving slowly to make Russian-speaking resthat, as Russia becomes more democratic and open, it will come to correctly view the Balts' integration into the West as an advantage, not a threat.

With a combined population smaller than the combined population of Mary-land and Virginia, the three Baltic nations are not going to make major con-tributions to U.S. security in conventional terms. In that sense, they do not come to the signing ceremony as ecnals with America, But, as Estonian President Lennart Meri pointed out this week the three Baltic nations, by championing democracy and free markets, are in fact strengthening European and thus U.S. security in a very real way. Perhaps the most important aspect of this charter is that it recognizes that fact — recognizes Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania not as problems to be managed but as partners to work with. —THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Deflation on the March

If inflation is the common cold, deflation is more like a retrovirus that confuses the body's defenses and causes our immune system to selfdestruct. Because it is so rare, and so well camouflaged in its incipient stages, it embeds itself in the economic system before the financial authorities are fully alert to the danger. By then it is exceedingly hard to combat. Which is why it would be foolish to disregard the current warning signals of deflation

The last deflation, of course, was the monetary implosion of the early 1930s. It is an education to go through old copies of American newspapers, reading the daily headlines and the Panglossian quotes of the financial establishment. As late as the spring of 1931, 18 months after the stock market crash, the U.S. Federal Reserve Board was still worried about the threat of price rises. It was staring deflation in the face, but all it could see was

phantom flickerings of inflation. For [Asia] the worst is probably over. Now it is our turn to experience the inflationary draught as these tigers flood the world with cheap exports.

— Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, in

The Daily Telegraph (London).

Herald Tribune

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Action, Not Personalities, Is the Mideast Essential

PARIS — The separate meetings of Bill Clinton in Washington next week with the Israeli and Palestinian leaders were intended to force a breakthrough in the stalled Middle East peace talks. Reversing a previous tactic of waiting for the adversaries to make proposals so that renewed U.S. me-diation could be "useful," the United States decided to try to force the pace

by setting the White House dates. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright insisted that Benjamin Netanyahu bring a "credible" plan for withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territories, and that Yasser Arafat bring an agreed plan for cooperation on anti-terrorist security. The idea was that the deadline and the push on each side to offer concessions would bring renewed negotiations under threat of presidential pressure.

That idea isn't working. The mistake is that it continues to focus on details, on small steps, when the central problem now is the basic one of ultimate intention. Washington continues to choose to believe that both leaders do want to make peace and have to be helped to struggle against their extremists by finding technical adjustments.

But however it is expressed now in the fine print about percentages of ter-nitory and what constitutes "reciproBy Flora Lewis

city," the issue is not technical. In fact, Israeli and Palestinian officials did reach general agreement on the technical security questions, but Mr. Netanyahu's government has ruled that insufficient. Instead it has come up with new demands, including extradition of 34 Palestinians, designed 10 embarrass Mr. Arafat politically so that

he can be relied upon to refuse. From the time of his election last year, based on a severe critique of the Oslo accords, Washington has accepted the Israeli prime minister's stand that he does intend to honor the agreement but requires improved security. There has been remarkable nationce waiting for him to show this, first on the grounds that he needed time to organize his government and now that he has to placate his right wing to preserve his fragile coalition.

The pledged and long delayed withdrawal from Hebron last year, preserving and maintaining heavy pro-tection for the small Jewish enclave there, was considered an important test. It was only a symbol, but after so much diplomatic scrambling and heavy breathing it was made to appear as a great advance and a sign of Mr. Netanyahu's willingness to go forward. That exaggeration only served to

harden his intransigent supporters. There is no way to prove secret in-tentions. The Palestinians and practically all other Arabs have concluded that Mr. Netanyahu is determined to destroy the peace hopes but to put the blame for failure on Mr. Arafat. Washington still professes to believe in goodwill. The test has to be shifted from personalities to policies.

The United States can only deal with the leaders who are there, but it can make clear that from now on it will judge them and their plans by what they actually do, not by how aggressively or plaintively they argue their intentions. Israeli politics now offers a new

opportunity. The resignation of Foreign Minister David Levy, a relatively moderating voice in the cabinet, weakens the coalition but strengthens the weight of the ultranationalists in cabinet decisions.

Mr. Levy quit primarily, he said, in protest at lavish financial concessions to those groups at the expense of social service claims of his Sephardic constituency. But he also railed against the blockage of the peace process, although Mr. Netanyahn had implied that he was

being so generous as the price of soften-ing hard-liners. It hasn't done that.

Park Har Kin

The last election showed the public almost equally divided. Since then the gap has become increasingly bitter. With Mr. Levy's defection, new elections are likely to show a new majority. as more and more Israelis despair that the possibility of real peace is being lost; or the way can be opened for a national coalition to make peace.

Washington cannot unseat Mr. Netanyahu or call elections. But by making clear that it will support only a "credible" policy regardless of partisan politics, it can provoke a demand for a definite Israeli decision. It is futile to suggest more mincing compromise steps that continue to blur the real question: Is peace available or not?

More stalling, more illusions only worsen the whole Middle East simation. The Israeli-Palestinian problem cannot be de-linked from U.S. policy on Iraq, because the Arab states which supported the United States in the Gulf War feel that they cannot appear to

support this deadlock.

The United States wants peace to work. That should be President Clinton's unequivocal demand of his visitors if they want Washington's backing.

Netanyahu Has Staying Power, and He Can Deliver Peace

WASHINGTON — A politician's ad lib may anyahu (always falling, never fallen), rose to meet the astonished world press after surviving yet another challenge to

his leadership with "Look! I'm still here." He is likely to be at his electpost longer than most Washington pols think. That is because it would take a twothirds vote of the 120-seat Knesset to throw him out, and it's hard to get 80 members to

vote together to go to lunch. But isn't his government clinging to power with what every account says is "a razorthin majority" of one vote? In that narrowness there is strength. More than a majority would hate to risk their seats in a premature election

And even if another chunk of his coalition defects, he would run on a platform of "I'm the one to keep enough By William Safire

prime minister, Benjamin Net- curity, and all of Jerusalem" and he would win again with a stronger mandate.

Despised by his political op-

position (FDR used to say 'and I welcome their hatred' and distrusted by the Likud old-timers (the fault of his own cockiness), this young prime minister, with the white-baired Arik Sharon solidly behind him, is the man who will make the peace with Yasser Arafat if peace is to be made.

Is Mr. Netanyahu prepared to make painful concessions to gain peace with security? He answered that a year ago in signing the Hebron protocol, and kept his promise to release women prisoners and redeploy in the historic city. But he now points to a U.S. envoy's accompanying note listing Palestinian pledges, since broken.

He began negotiations at a and Jerusalem divided, disadvantage. The Oslo agree-

be actually off the cuff. Israel's of the West Bank for our se-ment called for Israel to give up unspecified portions of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority on the installment plan, leading up to a final discussion about other Arab claims including Jerusalem.

The hope was that mutual trust would be built along the way. Trust is not what developed. Bombs savaged Israelis. Mr. Arafat put under arms double the agreed-on number of Palestinians but refused to confront the Arab terrorist network and did not rescind the PLO oath to destroy Israel.

The great flaw in the Oslo accord became apparent: If Israel handed over most of the West Bank before the final negotiation, as Mr. Arafat confidently expected, it would have no leverage of land left to counter Arab demands that settlements be closed down

als from the West Bank to Is-rael. When Mr. Arafat repeatedly broke his word, Mr. Netanyahu exercised his option to hand over less of the West Bank in each installment. He then proposed to move immediately to final settlement talks. at which time Israel would have substantial West Bank land to offer to close the deal.

Mr. Arafat refused. First give us the West Bank, all of it, and then we'll talk about Jerusalem, our capital. He looked to the United States to lean on Israel to make this happen. That is why next week's

headlines will be about percentages of land in the next installment. Whatever it is -10 percent would be a stretch - Mr. Arafat's outraged chief negotiator has already declared, "We will not accept any division of the West Bank." All or nothing.

Israel rightly wants recipro-Fortunately, Oslo left the city - "peace for land"

size and scope of the withdraw- before the next installment. Result of deflating unrealistic expectations: Palestinian outrage. Bill Clinton should meet Is-

rael's leader halfway in establishing rapport. He should then persuade Mr. Arafat that his route to sovereignty is to skip the installment plan and go to final talks now because time is on neither side's side. A good neighborhood cries

out to be created. We have seen the prospective maps: a Paiestinian state — flag, passports, port, airport — on aimost all of Gaza and a substantial majority of West Bank land, with Israel's settlements and security on the rest. More than one place can be called Jerusalem.

This government can do the job of bringing peace with se-curity," Mr. Netanyahu told me on Wednesday, "and we want to do it." He and Mr. Sharon can deliver now as nobody else on the Israeli scene. Can Mr. Arafat take delivery?

The New York Times.

Look Out for Political and Social Turmoil in East Asia

→ANBERRA — Asia's fi-Unancial crisis is more than just an economic phenomenon.

it lasts, the greater the chances of political and social turmoil. Ît is unclear whether Asia's economic difficulties are shortterm and will be resolved after two or three years of painful adjustments, or whether they are systemic and herald per-

manently lower growth rates. Serious questions are being asked about the so-called Asian way. The peculiar form of state capitalism has been spectacularly successful in directing human and capital resources and in ruthlessly pursuing export opportunities. But sustained double-digit growth also led to slack financial and banking practices, cronyism, corruption and reckless investments.

WASHINGTON — Some time ago I came across

pictures taken in a village after

one of Algeria's all too fre-

quent massacres. Villagers had been tossed in a well. One

was a young boy, maybe 8 years old. His body was fetched from the well and pho-

tographed just as it was

brought to ground level. He

had nearly been decapitated.

have done to warrant such a

death? What could have been

his crime, his ideology, his

belief, his threat — and his threat to whom? What ex-

plains the murder of a child?

The killing of children is an

So, too, is the killing of

Algerian staple. In some vil-

lages they have been hurled

women and the aged - and of

men, of course. None of these

people seem politically in-

volved, nor are they members

of the military or the police.

Yet they have been murdered

by the thousands, often in

ways so gruesome as to be

In the first week of January

as many as 1,000 persons were

killed in villages about 240

kilometers from Algiers. The

savagery is such that you can-

not believe that human beings,

as opposed to animals, are re-

abrogated the results of elec-

Ever since the army in 1991

incomprehensible.

against walls.

What could an 8-year-old

By Paul Dibb

growth (negative growth in Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea this year), soaring unemployment, failed businesses and abrupt increases in the prices of imported essentials.

True, export prices will ef-fectively halve for some countries, but it is hard to believe that Asia's major export markets are going to stand by and see their domestic industries and balance of trade attacked in this way.

The big question is whether Asia's economic crisis will lead to a global recession.

Economic euphoria about Asia was urged on us by economists who gave little or no leadership credibility.

Algeria Is Everyone's Problem

By Richard Cohen

ernment, Algeria has been

bleeding from terrorism. Had

the fundamentalists stuck to

killing pro-Western figures —

journalists and the like - the

world, particularly Europe,

might have paid keener atten-

tion. But the terror soon

people may have been killed.

And no one outside of Al-

geria can quite explain what is

happening. The slaughter is

supposedly being carried out

The government decries

what is happening, but some

of the massacres have taken

place suspiciously close to

military installations. Why the

soldiers remained in the bar-

racks while civilians were be-

ing slaughtered is yet another

question that lacks an answer. Maybe the government thinks

that continued terror justifies

is not some place on the other

side of the moon where none

of the rules of civilization ap-

ply. The mere mention of the

ists" does not mean that the

There has to be a reason for

situation is inexplicable.

"Islamic fundamental-

Whatever the case, Algeria

its continued military rule.

by the Armed Islamic Group.

Its goals are not clear. Its vic-

tims are not its enemies.

By now as many as 100,000

moved to the countryside.

No one really knows.

cine that will have to be taken is needed now is risk assesswill result in much lower ments of Asia that factor in noneconomic parameters. Confidence in the political

leadership in several countries has been eroded seriously. Much will depend on how astute leaders are in managing the appropriate economic and social policies during a difficult and unpopular period of change.

In certain countries the close inner circle of business friends and families of the political leadership stand to lose vast fortunes. Pretending that the crisis does not exist, or blaming it on foreign speculators, will only worsen the economic basis for recovery and further undermine

from village to village without

being caught. Amnesty Inter-

national reports two instances

last year in which villagers,

trying to escape a massacre, were turned back by the army.

other countries to mind their

own business. When France,

Algeria's former master, sug-

gested an international inves-

tigation (so did the United

eign state, renews its categor-

ical rejection of any attempt to

interfere in its internal af-

fairs." (The European Union

is sending a high-level dele-

gation to Algiers "to listen.")

not in my book an "internal

affair." It would be one thing

if there were no suggestion of

official complicity in the mas-

baseless (why, after all, would

the government condone such

hideous killings?), it cannot

hurt the government to have a

team of international experts

the government is complicit-

The fact remains that either

Europe and the United

States have an urgent moral

obligation to keep the spot-

light on Algeria and demand

that something be done. The

first step is to recall that boy in

the well, his throat a gash of

The Washington Post,

crimson, and not look away.

look into the situation.

ous or it is simply inept.

And even if the charges are

sacres, but there is.

The massacre of children is

States), Algiers responded by saying, "Algeria, the sover-

The government has told

The day of reckoning has attention to the political, social avoided. The loss of lifetime tional confidence and defense ployment, living standards eroded by huge increases in prices for imported necessities, and a crushing economic burden for the poorer classes are an inflammable mixture. We have already seen riots

and panic buying in Indonesia, mounting xenophobia in South Korea, and calls for the eviction of guest workers in Thailand. In those Asian societies where there is a complex and fragile, ethnic mix the capacity for social explosion is very apparent. It will be a real test to keep public discontent under control. Nationalism remains a

powerful driving force throughout Asia. There are some profound antipathies between neighboring countries that have been restrained by high economic growth rates. If the current crisis continues

to worsen, we will need to consider the effect it could have on relations between South Korea and Japan, North Korea and South Korea, China and Japan, and China and Southeast Asia. As we enter the new mil-

lennium, the ASEAN countries in particular will be more directly exposed to the strategic uncertainties and pressures from the changing balance of power in Northeast Asia and especially from the rise of Chiha to power. They now face the prospect of doing this with-

It remains to be seen whether out the solid economic growth serious social unrest can be that underpinned both their na-

culation increase, a continuing U.S. strategic presence will be all the more important.

But economic turmoil will imports from Asia may produce

And every time an Asian leader blames "the West" (read, the United States) for a

Some of the hubris about the

No doubt the economic fundamentals are there for Asia to return eventually to strong patterns of growth. But the path between the current crisis and the longer-term goal is far from clear. All in all, it seems doubtful now that Asia will become the new locus of world power any time soon.

The writer head of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at The Australian National University, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

1898: Social Warfare NEW YORK - A merry social

war is in progress in Washing-ton between the small and early dances, led by Mrs. Henry Cabot Lodge, Mrs. Archibald and Mrs. John Davis on one side and Mrs. Leiter on the other. The quarrel originated in some idle banter or jest, and Mrs. Leiter swore the terrible revenge of giving dances on every night named by the "small and earlies." Mrs. Leiter gives lashings of champagne, the small and earlies only weak claret punch. Under these conditions the first battle last night [Jan. 14] was a decisive victory for Mrs. Leiter. Most of the pretty young girls went to the small and early,

1923: German Fight

visitors in Washington.

PARIS - The German Gov-

The other fundamental in Asia's security has been the military presence of the United States. As economic uncertainty and the risk of miscal-

test U.S. commitment in the region. The much cheaper cost of another wave of protectionist calls from the U.S. Congress.

nation's economic difficulties, the harder it will be for President Bill Clinton to resist such negative responses.

Asian economic miracle needs

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

but Mrs. Leiter captured all the diplomatic and distinguished

ernment has taken another step in its economic fight against French occupation of the Ruhr. It has ordered German mine owners not to deliver coal to the French. The French reply to this new managuvre was to order General Degoutte to advance his troops to a new eastern line in order to obtain control of the vast coke indus-

1948: India Payments NEW DELHI - The Indian

cabinet announced that in deference to Mohandas K. Gandhi it would resume payments due to Pakistan under the suspended financial pact in hopes the government action would convince Gandhi to forego his fast. The Indian government announced a plebiscite would be held in the disputed Indian-held state of Junagach to decide whether the inhabitants wanted to join India or Pakistan.

term

tions that would have installed a Muslim fundamentalist gov-

The Best Ambassadors America Has Ever Had

By David S. Broder

least one initiative that has received warm praise in both parties
and reflects well on the United

along in years.

Young Carter tells me he asked
for an African assignment after States around the world.

In his budget for next year, Mr. Clinton will ask for a substantial increase in funds for the Peace Corps, a legacy of the idealistic 1960s that has taken on fresh significance in this end of the century

The president has announced he will seek a 21 percent boost in Peace Corps funds — \$48 million - as the first stage in increasing the number of Americans in its overseas assignments to 10,000 by the end of the decade. Today, there are roughly 6,600 volunteers working in schools, clinics and nascent businesses and helping on agricultural and environmental projects in 85 countries.

They may be the best ambassadors America has ever had. John Kennedy launched the Peace Corps in 1961, borrowing really inspiring to be in this job the idea from Hubert Humphrey. and in its first heady years it sent as many as 15,000 young Americans to remote villages in the of our volunteers, a 64-year-old Third World. But it languished in the go-go 1980s, when barely one-third that many volunteers

were in the field at any time. Today, happily, the supply of would-be Peace Corps workers is increasing at the same time that worldwide demand is on the rise.

Last year, according to its di-rector, Mark Gearan, more than 150,000 people contacted Peace Corps offices inquiring about — up 40 percent from

The end of the Cold War and the spread of democracy in previously authoritarian countries have opened new opportunities and re-sponsibilities for the Peace Corps. This year, it will start programs in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, in Bangladesh and in Mozambique. Last year, at the request of President Nelson Mandela, it began working in South Africa.

This week, a new contingent of 41 volunteers will leave Atlanta for South Africa. One of those volunteers is Jason Carter, a recent graduate of Duke

University and the grandson of former President Jimmy Carter. The Peace Corps is a Carter family tradition. Jason's great-

grandmother, Miss Lillian, served

WASHINGTON — Credit as a volunteer nurse in India in the President Bill Clinton for at late 1960s, when she was well

seeing the devastation in Liberia

on a visit with his grandfather.
"Even if you go to Duke," he said, "or maybe to make up for going to Duke, you want a new way of going out to look at the world. Our culture is stampeding and this may be a way to see what parts you can take at face value and what parts you need to reject.'

Mr. Gearan asked for the Peace Corps assignment after carrying lots of water for Mr. Clinton, first as director of the Democratic Governors' Association, then as a 1992 campaign press spokesman and finally as White House communications director during the toughest parts of the first term.

One of the least cynical politicians I have known, Mr. Gearan said: "It was a great honor to work in the White House, but it is and see the very tangible differences our volunteers are making. 'In Botswana, I was with one

grandmother who has helped a cooperative of women weavers triple their income in the past year. She's living in a thatched-roof but filled with drawings by her nine grandchildren."

Mr. Gearan has used his influence with Mr. Clinton to set the Peace Corps on its upward trajectory, but he has had many

"When heads of state and foreign ministers come to Washington, many of them come by here to thank us," he said. "Some of them, in their youth, were taught by Peace Corps volunteers.'

The returned volunteers, now numbering 150,000, form a powerful grassroots lobby. On Capitol Hill, the support is bipartisan.

Senator Paul Coverdell, a Georgia Republican who ran the Peace Corps during much of the Bush administration, is enthusiastic about Mr. Clinton's expansion plans.

Support also has come from six other legislators — three Democrats and three Republicans who were Peace Corps volun-

This one is a winner all around.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defending Switzerland

Regarding "Study Accuses Swiss of Abuse and Bias Against Jewish Wartime Refugees" (Jan.

The accusation that Switzerland abused Jews during World War II — when it was the only European nation that consistently provided them sanctuary — is

I arrived as a Jewish refugee in Switzerland in the summer of 1944. At the time Auschwitz and the other extermination camps, all fed by the occupied countries of Europe, were gassing thousands of Jews daily.

My family consisted of 14 people, headed by my 80-year-old grandfather. There were no Jews in Europe who would not have given up everything to be in our place. The Swiss labor camps were the equivalent of heaven on earth

for Jews then living in Europe. There I met hundreds of Jewish refugees from all over Europe who owed their lives to the extreme generosity of the Swiss. Yes, everyone had to work, except those like me who were of school age and got an education. If the Americans and British

had displayed the same generosity toward Jews from Germany, Austria and the other occupied nations, the Holocaust would not have claimed 6 million Jewish lives. Before we continue this orgy of

accusation against the behavior of

a small country when the world around it was poisoned, when people were behaving like wild beasts, let us remember its great deeds. The fact that Switzerland displayed valor in the face of immense danger to its national survival seems lost today in the anti-

PETER MUNK.

Clinton and the Mideast

Regarding "Mideast Peace Process: Three Options for Clinton" (Opinion, Jan. 14) by Thomas L. Friedman:

Mr. Friedman is disappointingly minimalist in the options he suggests for U.S. dealings with Israel. President Bill Clinton could also state publicly that Israel must comply with international law and all UN resolutions birding upon N resolutions binding upon it. He could state that if Israel does

not declare its firm intention to comply with Security Council Resolutions 242 (regarding Israeli-occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories) and 425 (regarding Israeli-occupied Lebanese territory) and to withdraw to its internationally recognized borders by a specified date, the United States will no longer use its veto to block whatever sanctions the rest of the international community may see fit to impose upon Israel

JOHN V. WHITBECK.

Happy Europe?

Regarding "The Final Act" Books, Jan. 7): The review of "The Final Act: The Roads to Waterloo" by Ed-

win M. Yoder Jr. is astonishing. Mr. Yoder is described as the author of "The Historical Present: Uses and Abuses of the Past." Yet somehow he is able to comment that, following Napoleon's final exile and the restoration of the various royal families displaced by his empire, "Europe lived hap-pily — at least until 1914."

Happily, that is, if you can ignore such trivial details as the Europe-wide revolutions of 1830 and 1848; the Paris Commune; the Crimean War; the Franco-Prossian War; Greece's wars of independence; the unifications of Germany and Italy; the further division of the Austro-Hungarian empire and of the Ottoman empire ...

CHARLIE ARTHURSEN.

Idea and Act

Regarding "Rome Killing Alarms Gay Community" (Jan.

It is baffling how the Vatican can condemn not homosexuality but the practice of homosexual acts. This is sophism. The Vatican is indeed creating a homophobic atmosphere.

HARRY MARINSKY. Pietrasanta, Italy.

An Ice Storm Reveals Our Network's Frailty

By Jane Urquhart

WELLESLEY, Ontario — I ton I entered a brittle, icy world in which everything had colern Ontario at 9 A.M. Saturday in lapsed Electrical towers had

who were engaged in unofficial terparts in eastern Ontario and

MEANWHILE

Quebec, who have been particularly hard hit by Ice Storm '98. My own rescue mission involved the recovery of my 20year-old daughter and three of her friends from the university town of Kingston, Ontario, 150 miles (240 kilometers) away.

My husband and I had spent the previous few days discussing whether the kids should come home. The storm missed our part of Ontario, but we had seen the television coverage of the twisted electrical towers, fallen trees and interlaced wires and cables that had covered Kingston's once bucolic streets since midweek. As far as we could tell, everything was down except for the phones.

Our daughter had been calling daily. She and four of her friends had moved into one room hoping that their body heat might cause the indoor temperature to rise. She told us they were passing the cat from lap to lap for

It wasn't until Saturday morning, when she said there was no water left and few places to go to get more, that we decided we had

More than a million people in Quebec and 800,000 in Ontario were without the essentials of life in a cold climate, one of the worst natural calamities in Canada's history. A state of emergency had been declared; all trains had been canceled. The authorities were asking people to stay off the roads. But I wanted my child out of

Highway 401 is one of the busiest in North America. On a normal day, a motorist must fight for space among hundreds of trucks ferrying cargo between Montreal and Toronto. Now it was deserted except for the long convoys of military vehicles heading in to set up shelters and help restore power.
Thirty miles outside of Kings-

the company of several pickup crumpled into oddly human postures. The few trees that had They were driven by farmers postures. The few trees that had not snapped or split were bent toward the earth as if in despair. rescue missions to aid their coun- Even the outcroppings of limestone were altered, their roughness obliterated by inches of beautiful ice.

Entering the town, I drove through an obstacle course of fallen poles and downed wires. avoiding the streets where the police had put up the most yellow tape. The area around the university was filled with groups of students who wandered through

the streets looking for shelter.
The phrase "this is a disaster area" kept running through my mind — until I realized that this really was a disaster area. It was the kind of scene I and many others in this safe, calm country had never expected to see firsthand.

I found my daughter and her friends in the early afternoon, inside their rented house, huddled in sleeping bags. The cat and its owner had already been evacuated. The rest of them retreated, as quickly as possible, to the warmth of my car, leaving behind all those essentials — computers, CD players, curling irons and electric guitars — without a

second thought. As we drove west, leaving the world of ice behind, the evacuees argued about which had been worse, the dark or the cold. We talked about the frail network on which we stake our survival

We cheered each time we saw a Canadian military convoy heading east, and we cheered again when we saw a fleet of American power company trucks coming up from Detroit to help.

The author's latest novel is "The Underpainter." She contributed this comment to The New

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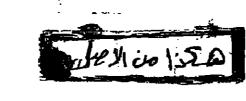
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Feeling Yangish? A Singapore Cure Eating Your Ailments Away:

Good for the Body and Palate

By Patricia Wells ional Herald Tribune

INGAPORE – As one always eager to learn more about the food-health connection, this opportunity seemed too good to be true: A Chinese herbal doctor takes your pulse, examines the state of your tongue, diagnoses your yin-yang status,

and prescribes dinner.
No hoax. After all, this is Singapore, the world's greatest candy store for any-one eager to dabble in the wonders of food. Asian and otherwise. It's all here -North and South Indian, Malay, Indonesian, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Japanese, Chinese, the local Nonya cuisine

and Western, But back to the herb doctor. He holds court in a second-floor Chinese restaurant fittingly called Imperial Herbal, around the corner from the

famed Raffles Hotel. The predictable interior is straight out of Chinese Restaurant Decor 101, with large round tables, small alcoves for private dining, and endless, endless pouring of hot tea, in our case the prescribed ginseng-root tea

designed to balance us out. My pulse and tongue suggested I was a little bit on the yin side, but not so much that a little bit of double-boiled shark's cartilage soup wouldn't cure me. My partner, on the other hand, had too much yang (and was informed he needed more sleep than I, no surprise to either of us). He was prescribed a dish of eggplant and pine nuts to moisturize his lungs, lubricate his intestines, and retard aging.

HEALTHY AND GOOD EATING

But that's enough of the health angle. A single dinner wasn't going to make or break our future, so we dug into our prescribed meal with our normal gusto. Whether or not you're curious about your yin-yang balance, by all means go to Imperial Herbal for the food. It's light, ethereal almost, and most of all, different from just about any sort of Chinese food you know.

Save for the medicinally fragrant soups that were too bitter to be palate pleasing, a series of dishes here were not only invigorating but memorable.

Begin with the quick-fried egg white with dried scallops, served in a shredded-potato nest. I never knew egg whites could be so otherworldly, tasting like icately havored clouds in crunchy, light potato baskets that seemed to have been deep fried in air they were so void of fat or grease. A generous dose of black pepper (as prescribed) left one both amazed and satisfied.

Equally impressive was the velvety braised codfish fillet in fermented rice sauce with fresh lily buds. The buds tasted faintly like a mix between Provencal almonds fresh from the tree and moist water chestnuts.

But the finest dish of the day was the braised eggplant with pine nuts, another greaseless dish with a smooth, soft texture and pure, rich eggplant flavor, almost that of the revered wild cèpe mush-

The menu carefully translated into English, is loaded with curiosities (such as deer-penis wine, deep-fried scorpions and crunchy black ants), but such tra-ditional fare as beggar's chicken wrapped in lotus leaves, sautéed chili prawns with walnuts, and sautéed flank steak with orange peel should keep the average diner more than content.

A visit to Singapore would not be complete without a visit to the Raffles Hotel for a curry tiffin, where the everchanging buffet offers something for every palate. The elegant room alone stark white with black bentwood armchairs, silver vases and brisk, whitejacketed waiters - is worth a detour all

THE HIGH ART OF TIFFIN Tiffin, the traditional Indian lunch or midmorning snack, has long been practiced as high art at Raffles. Begin with the bold and spicy mulligatawny soup, a certified wake-up alarm for the palate. This tra-

ditional Indian marriage (from the Tamil word milakutanni, or pepper water) here consists of less than 29 ingredients, ranging from blue ginger (galangal) to cashew nuts to cloves, cassia leaves and lemon

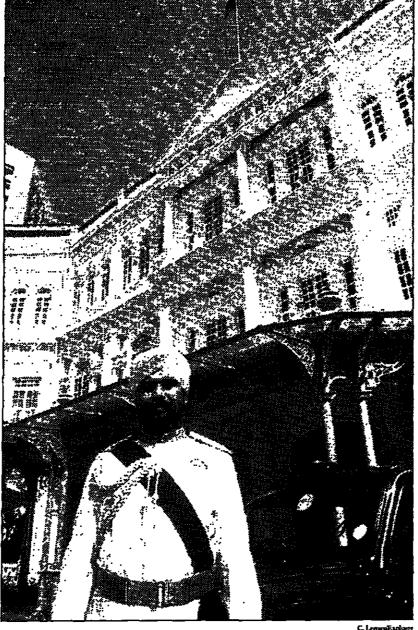
The chicken-based soup, which takes its vibrant ocher-orange color from a generous dose of turmeric and curry powder, cooks for a good three hours at a gentle simmer, making for a stew that is a meal all on its own. The buffet, which may include a quartet of starters, the mulligatawny soup, tandoori prawns, an assortment of fish chicken, lamb and vegetable curries all accompanied by rice, an assortment of pickles and indescribably fresh, fragrant and delicious mango chutney, will send you to an air-conditioned room for a well-earned afternioon siesta.

Singapore's unofficial national dish is simply called "chicken rice," a deceptively simple Hainanese preparation of extraordinary flair and one found at dozens of specialty restaurants about town. The locals unanimously discouraged me from visiting the spot that's often touted as the best, the expensive tourist version found at the Chatterbox Restaurant in the Mandarin Hotel.

I opted for the admirably simple, fullflavored version found at the Lee Fun Nam Kee family restaurant along the trendy Clarke Quay. Here, in a bright, spotless, modern restaurant adorned with blond wood, pretty white china, quiet jazz and helpful waiters dressed in pale green uniforms, diners literally feast on this "why-didn't-I-think-of-it"

WHOLE chicken is poached in a rich, double-boiled poultry stock and hacked into pieces: then rice is cooked in that same double-duty broth. The dish is always served with a ginger and chili sauce to expand the palette of flavors. Flavors are pure and rich and not the least bit bland, and the aroma alone makes one salivate.

Diners vary the dish by dipping the chicken in soy, or ordering the same variation prepared with roasted goose, stewed beef brisket, suckling pig or roasted pork ribs. Do try the irresistible chicken-rice ball, a hardball-size portion of compact rice, formed by hand, with a flavor that's infused with the essence of



The Raffles Hotel, a Singapore landmark, serves a traditional curry tiffin. the wholesome broth. Other excellent Fillings might include fiery spiced pota-

dishes here include bok choy in oyster sauce and the crisp roasted-duck rice.

Unquestionably, some of the most exciting food to be found in Singapore is not in the hallowed dining rooms but at the hundreds upon hundreds of hawker's stalls, roadside restaurants and mom-andpop establishments scattered throughout the metropolis. In this food-obsessed world, Singapore is a veritable food lover's paradise, for any cuisine is available at any time of the day.

As Raffles's executive assistant manager, M.P.S. Puri, explained over dim sum one morning: "The world is into eat-ertainment now. People are looking for drama. Food is no longer what brings people to a restaurant.

Day or night one can drop in at the scruffy looking, always busy Garden Seafood Restaurant, which is little more than a few plastic tables on the sidewalk. where customers help themselves to the offerings stacked at the counter.

One of the freshest and most memorable meals in Singapore included a 7 A.M. breakfast at Le Garden, where restorative bites of giant shrimp wrapped in delicately thin rice paper and carefully steamed were paired with rich, steaming puff-pastry-style buns filled with plum sauce: tastes to warm the heart and tide one over until lunchtime.

Equally curious, equally savory are the morning snacks found at the Komala Vilas, where the array of eat-with-your fingers Indian vegetarian crepes, or dosai, offer a distinct change from a Western breakfast. Here one can feast on some 15 varieties of dosai - prepared with a fermented batter of ground beans and rice — cooked on stone griddles. toes, green chilies and ginger, or cumin and pepper flakes.

Fabulous, inexpensive south Indian fare can also be found at the wildly popular Banana Leaf Apollo, so named cause banana leaves are substituted for plates, and though forks and spoons are provided, most diners eat with their right hand, cupping bits of rice along with the fiery curries. Don't miss the fish-head curry (the head of the red

snapper cooked in a spicy curry sauce).

Typical of many Singapore restaurants, this one began as a hawker's stand. and grew into a multistory cafeteriastyle restaurant in just a generation.

All prices are per person, not including beverage: Imperial Herbal Restaurant, 3d floor,

Metropole Hotel, 41 Shea Street, Singapore; tel: (65) 337-0491; fax: 339-5273; 50 Singapore dollars (\$28). Reservations recommended. Raffles Hotel, I Beach Road; tel:

337-1886; fax: 339-7650; 50 Singapore dollars. Lee Fun Nam Kee, Chicken Rice Res-

taurant, 3D River Valley Road, 01-09 Shophouse Row, Clarke Quay: tel: 255-0891; fax: 255-7833; 15 Singapore dol-

Le Garden Seafood Restaurant (open 24 hours daily), 275 New Bridge Road; tel: 223-3888; fax: 225-0822; 5 to 10 Singapore dollars. Komala Vilas, 12-14 Buffalo Road; tel: 293-6980; fax: 293-9385; 5 Singa-

pore dollars. Banana Leaf Apollo, 54-56-58 Race

Course Road; sel: 293-8682; fax: 293-1381; 15 Singapore dollars.

This is the first in a series of articles. Next week: Shanghai.

A Rainbow of Life In Diverse Trinidad

By Somini Sengupta New York Times Service

ORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad — The panic set in when I saw him stuff the fourth book of bird pictures into his backpack. My partner, Joe, and I were setting off for a long-awaited vacation in Trinidad. And in terror, I pictured us trainsing through the island in checkered shorts and black nylon knee socks all week long, binoculars dangling from our necks, looking a bit like Mr. and Mrs. Thurston Howell 3d

on "Gilligan's Island." I tried not to let the panic show. Joe loves birds. And I — well, let's just say I find all those feathers and beaks a bit redundant after a while.

Thankfully, when we flew there in late September, Trinidad itself turned both our heads. Eleven degrees north of the Equator, the island is home to some 420 recorded species of birds, 620 varieties of butterflies and dank, hilly rain forests, where trees grow upon gnarled trees and the sharp-beaked ibis become scarlet from a diet of shrimp and crab in the mangrove swamp.

The island's social ecosystem turned out to be as rich, because Trinidad home of calypso and roti, birthplace of the historian C. L. R. James and the writer V.S. Naipaul - was once one of the most intensely colonized places on earth. The Spanish, who conquered it in 1498, were followed by the French, who were followed by the British, who ruled until independence in 1962.

Trinidad is easy to explore for visitors who are willing to rent a car, keeping to the left, as you must in many of the former British colonies — and rely on their instincts. Trinidad has few road signs and even fewer tourist information offices. That suited us just fine. With a battered maroon Nissan — weekly rentals range from \$250 to \$300 — we set off on day trips to explore the nature and nurture of Trinidad.

One afternoon we drove to Maracas Bay - Trinidad's most popular beach on the north coast, about an hour from Port of Spain in good weather - it was raining, which made our drive through the rain forest all the more ominous. Cars and jitneys came whizzing down the winding, mountainous two-lane highway. To our left, vultures hovered over a valley. Smoke rose from a ramshackle house, perched above a hill terraced with glistening rows of dasheen and squat banana trees. Fire-red ginger blossoms, the kind one sees in fancy Manhattan hotel lobbies, poked improbably out of the cliffs.

The beach was mostly empty when we arrived, save several birds making a merry noise. Joe jumped out of the car and that and happily announced his findings - among them the greater and lesser yellowlegs feeding on the slushy sand, a row of gray-breasted martins resting on a power line.

OR me, Maracas had another attraction: It was reputed to have the best shark-and-bake, a deep-fried shark sandwich served with shaddobene, a rangy sauce of local herbs. Because the sandwiches are so tasty and so much in demand, shark is becoming perilously scarce in the waters around

One morning, we set off to explore Pointe-a-Pierre Wild Fowl Trust, a bird sanctuary about two hours south of Port

At the top of the hill, a peacock stood

sentry just beyond the parking lot of the Wild Fowl Trust, a yellow-billed jacana was resting on a lily pad, and Marilyn Hinkson, the tour guide, was explaining the virtues of local flora to a tour group. The bark of this soursop tree, she said as she pointed, can cure sleeplessness. Leaves from that mango tree relieve stress. The black sage bush works as mosquito repellent and is said to be good for high blood pressure, too.

The wildlife reserve, developed on

the grounds of the industrial complex, is a rich collection of crepe myrtle and florid flamboyants, fulvous ducks and Muscovies, and fragile endangered birds, like the shy purple gallinules and the garish toucans.

NATURE CENTER Trinidad's most famous bird sanctuary, the Asa Wright Nature Center, is on a coffee and citrus plantation about two hours northeast of Port of Spain. The plantation house, now a lodge, is carefully preserved. The day we were there, women in peachcolored uniforms served afternoon tea and sausage biscuits on the veranda at 4 P.M. as the guests peered out at the copper-rumped and the blue-chinned sapphire hummingbirds sipping from bird feeders nearby. We spotted many tanagers, a flurry of butterflies and even the introverted motmot.

Only those who stay at the big house for a minimum of three days are allowed into the coveted caves of the oilbirds, the endangered nocturnal fruit eaters (there are only about 120 left in the caves, said Denise Etienne, our guide).



The nature center also offers daily tours. But take note: Everything at Asa Wright follows an unbending schedule. We arrived 15 minutes late, and a security guard made sure we ventured no farther than the veranda.

A purple honevcreeper.

The next day at James Madoo's bamboo and palm cabana off of the Uriah Butler Highway, a half hour south of the city, we had no appointment. But with a glimpse of Trinidad's national bird, the scarlet ibis, waved us over and offered aperitifs: glasses of whisky, plums and a spoonful of sweet, fleshy jelly scooped from a freshly hacked coconut.

As the sky turned amber, we piled into Madoo's green wooden motorboat to see the ibis making its nightly descent into the swamp. We sailed slowly up the channel and into an open lagoon studded with small islands of mangrove. The first ibis was spotted, a streak of fire across the sky. A white heron followed.

Then, Madoo pulled our boat over to a bank and pointed to an island up ahead their nesting spot. Within minutes they arrived - alone, in pairs and then in glorious packs, painting the sky scarlet and settling into the bush, crowing noisily among themselves.

THE CAR COLUMN

MOVIE GUIDE

LE SEPTIEME CIEL Directed by Benoit Jacquot. France. Mathilde (Sandrine Kiberlain) moves about her vast apartment as if she doesn't really live there or - for that matter - inhabit her body. Nico (Vincent Lindon), her surgeon husband, gives her anti-depressants and makes love as if he were operating blindly. But Mathilde can get no satisfaction: to escape, she goes shopping and sneaks toys into her pocket, reads stories to her son and falls asleep. She is remote, a sleepwalker who only comes to life in the hands of a magician-like hypnotist. Once she awakens and responds sensually to Nico, he backs away from her. Jacquot's precise mise-en-scène skirts a melancholy subject - incapacity to communicate, to enjoy love - with elegance and wit. But we're not exactly watching Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant trade barbs. This couple lives in stifling aridity; they rarely talk or touch, make love with the lights off, and never tease because the atmosphere is fraught with repression. Kiberlain makes a fetching Mathilde, true to a dreamy, ineffable self, a wife and mother who lives away from home, in another space. Even when she gives up toys and gets into her body there is no promise that the seventh heaven, le septieme ciel, she discovers is going to hold her down. Lindon, who has grown out of his jeune premier look into something heavier, has remarkable density as mournful Nico. While Jacquot's social comedy touches on all sorts of modern themes, it may not get a lot of laughs or give satisfac-tion. (Joan Dupont, IHT)

THE POSTMAN

Directed by Kevin Costner. U.S. Kevin Costner falls head over beels in love with himself in "The Postman," an unintentionally funny valentine, self-addressed and no doubt sealed with a kiss. His first directorial outing since "Dances With Wolves." three-hour, post-apocalyptic clunker would be a half-hour shorter without Costner's close-ups of his own horizon-scanning mug. Set in the year 2013, in the ruins of America's consumer society — a hodgepodge of faded Coppertone billboards and tilted Union 76 globes — the film recalls "The Road Warrior," "Water-world," "Yojimbo" and, last but not least, 1953's "Pony Express." Still, it's basically a western tarted up in togs from an after-Armageddon clearance sale, and Costner's Postman is the drifter obliged to bring order to a frontier town terrorized by outlaws. The frontier is in chaos, bandit hordes rape and pillage at will, and an army under the command of a former copymachine salesman turned despot, General Bethlehem (Will Patton), regularly demands tribute and conscripts from helpless villages. Costner is shanghaied into Bethlehem's army. suffers through multiple screenings of "The Sound of Music" (no kidding), escapes, then comes upon an old mail truck. Inside he finds a ragged uniform and a bag of letters. He decides to scam meals by delivering the mail, but before he's through, he brings a sense of hope and order to the people. He visits the village of Pine View, Oregon, claiming to be a real-life postman part of the "Restored United States of America." His uniform attracts the attention of the fetching Abby (Olivia Williams), a married woman with a sterile husband who sizes up the postman as just the right drifter to father her child. The reluctant sperm donor becomes a role model and ultimately redeemer of what's left of America. "You're a godsend, a savior," pro-claims one. "No, I'm just the postman," Costner responds, with the humility and solemnity of a medieval (Rita Kempley, WP)

Mercedes Clicks With CLK Sports Coupe

By Gavin Green.

HEN Mercedes bosses swapped "Happy New Year" greetings on their first day back at work in 1998, they must really have meant it, After all, 1997 had not been one of the greatest for the company.

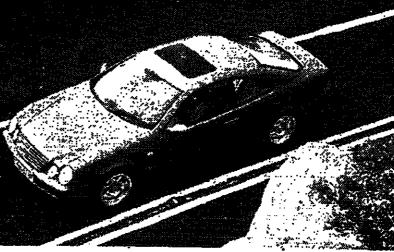
Mercedes was forced to cancel a new engine program, when it discovered after a few hundred million dollars -that the new motor was no better than the old one. Worst of all for the company's reputation, the new small A-class, billed as the single biggest motoring revolution of 1997, turned out to fulfill its billing all too literally. It overturned in an aroundthe-cones slalom test performed by a motoring magazine. Production was halted, cars were recalled, and Mercedes's reputation for engineering excellence looked rather misplaced.

As a final sting in 1997's tail, production of the new baby Smart car was delayed after it too flipped in a slalom test -- right in front of Daimler-Benz's chairman, Juergen Schrempp. It was not the sort of Christmas present that Schrempp had been hoping for.

ALSO AN UPSIDE

But, amid the gloom, there were a few reasons for the three-pointed star to sparkle in 1997. The new M-class 4x4 hit the U.S. market to a huge order book and has just won the American Truck of the Year award. And the CLK sports coupe has also been a big sales success, and has proved that Mercedes can build coupes that can do more than make aging men feel young and cart around

Benz coupes, in the past, have been



big on status but light on sportiness. They have been no faster and no more nimble than their sedan equivalents; coupe cruisers that go well enough, last forever, are comfortable, but have about as much driving appeal as a mobile home. There's nothing wrong with this policy. But it has allowed its archrival. BMW, to dominate the much bigger, more prestigious and faster-growing sports coupe market.

The CLK is cheaper. It looks a bit like a two-door version of the new E-class sedan, and indeed replaces the graceful and genteel old E-class coupe. Yet it is mechanically based on the smaller Cclass. This helps reduce costs and it's one reason that, by Mercedes's standards, the CLK is surprisingly affordable. There's a range of engines, including a new V6. The test car used a supercharged "Kompressor" 2.3-liter four-cylinder motor, also available on the C-class sedan and the SLK roadster

(also based on the C-class platform). There's a six-speed manual transmission on offer but, as with all Benzes. most buyers go for the five-speed automatic, as tested.

The CLK looks fabulous. It looks low and slinky and sporty and classy, a car that could just as easily transport those wearing a three-piece suit as designer

Whereas, by Mercedes's standards, the C-class sedan feels a bit cheap and fragile, a sign of the company economizing to try to compete harder with lower-cost Japanese and American makers, the CLK feels, and looks, stronger. The doors shut with that oldfashioned Mercedes "clunk" and the whole cabin is beautifully conceived and executed, including the white-faced

instruments. The front is very roomy, and the rear is big enough for a couple of adults too, The only back-bench botch is that things

feel rather claustrophobic, owing to the massive rear pillars, which also restrict over-the-shoulder visibility. The trunk is very large and the rear seats can fold forward, which just about turns your sports coupe into a sports van, so large is the carrying capacity.

The car tracks beautifully straight on freeways (all Mercedeses do). The supercharged engine gives great performance and is complemented by the sweet-shifting transmission. It's a rather gruff, aurally hard-edged motor, though, and one that lacks the sweetness and smoothness of a BMW straight-six

The CLK handles tidily and pleasingly, doesn't roll much, and can stay with any two-door BMW on the twisty bits. But it still doesn't serve up quite the razor-sharp interaction of the best sports

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O we're left with a desirable, good-value, beautifully made two-door car that goes fast and handles well, but doesn't deliver quite the thrills that its fetchingly sporty shape suggests. Nonetheless. more younger folk will still buy it, and enjoy it. And those older, affluent people who have long constituted the bulk of Mercedes coupe buyers, won't find much to surprise them.

 Mercedes-Benz CLK. Abou! \$50,000. Four-cylinder, 2295cc, supercharged engine, 190bhp at 5,300 rpm. Five-speed automatic transmission, rear-wheel drive. Top speed: 225 kph (140 mph). Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 8.4 seconds. Average fuel consumption:

10.3 liters/100 kilometers. Next: The Jaguar XJ8

Gavin Green is the editor in chief of Car magazine.

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LEISURE

What Fliers Would Like – and Get

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

LARGE majority of business moderns or power connections. a vellon biller travelers are happy to use nofrills airlines on short-haul routes; almost three-quarters for travelers' convenience) are beneficial to passengers. And while nearly everyone can access the Internet, less than A bookings. than 10 percent of travelers make on-line

These are some international Air Transport Association
Townel Survey 1997. The Corporate Air Haves Survey of 1,037 busi-Corporate Air Travel Survey 1997. The survey reflects the views of the Europe ness travelers in North America, Europe ness travelers in North America, Europe and Asia who had completed at least one business trip in the last six and Asia who nau complete the last six and made to long-hand business trip in the last six and made of issues in purple the months. It covers a multitude of issues from choice of airline for short-and flights and frequent-flier prolong-haul flights and frequent-flier prowature center innahing grams to corporate naver powers were flight entertainment. Interviews were flight entertainment in 11 countries during the doi: conducted in 11 countries during September and October.

Travelers expect to travel even more plants: this year — 16.7 percent of respondents while 44.6 percent expect to months, while 44.6 percent expect to travel "about the same" as last year. which saw a nearly 50 percent increase and the the over the year before.

THE COMPORT FACTOR Competitive fares are one of the most important assects of both short-haul and long-haul in the late under trips. Demand for economy class and discounted tickets seems to be growing. When asked about features that differentiate business class from economy on on short-haul routes, of whom 50 percent — the most frequent travelers who made 16 or more long-haul trips a year

were "very willing."
Convenient schedules (23 percent), reputation for safety (13 percent) and from IATA, (44-181) 607 6259. service (16 percent) are the most important factors in choosing an airline with frequent-flier programs trailing at

five percent. "comfort of seat/legroom" (33 percent), frequent-flier programs (10.2 percent), in-flight food (7.6 percent) and airport longes to long-haul fights, comfort and size to long-haul fights.

business travelers use in-flight computer

"Travelers say they prefer business facilities over in-flight entertainment," says Angelique Kriplani, who worked believe that global airline alliances and on the survey at IATA in London. "But code-sharing (designed for airlines' not when we asked how many actually used business facilities, the answer was very low. There's no interest in gambling or

The Frequent Traveler

catalogue shopping. I would say that airline ads are missing the lifestyle." Most business travelers (87 percent) are members of a frequent-flier program (18 percent belonging to five or more) which often influences their choice of airline for a particular trip — "always" (30.8 percent), "often" (32.2 percent)

'occasionally" (12.8 percent) in

contrast to the low score of FFPs as

'important aspects of the long-haul busi-

ness product." (Which goes to show that what people say is often different from short-haul flights, comfort was the top what they do.) A growing number of issue. Seventy percent of respondents travelers (16 percent) use miles for busi-were "willing" to use no-frills airlines ness travel (up from 7 percent in 1996), 70 percent of miles go for leisure travel, 10 percent for upgrades and two percent for hotel stays: 29 percent of travelers have never redeemed their miles: The survey is available for £99/\$155

Class-conscious travelers will welcome the 1998 edition of "A Question of Predictably, on short-haul trips, punctuality (64.8 percent), convenient schedule (52.3 percent) and "competitive book survey facilities and services both

(33.8 percent), in-flight food (14.9 per-cent) and in-flight entertainment (10.3 ment closets, aircraft seating plans, the road.

percent) in spite of the airline ads in check-in times and limo transfers for glossy magazines. Only 10 percent of premium passengers, airport lounges around the world, along with crucial facilities at 18 British airports.

Available from Hogg Robinson Travel, tel: (44-1252) 372-000.

Despite the fact that the currency turmoil in Asia provides some opportunities for cheap tickets, a sure-fire prediction for 1998 is that the cost of business travel will continue to rise — by 10 percent or more compared with 1997. Airlines are enjoying a seller's market as growing demand for seats matches capacity for the first time in a decade. Industry analysts predict that passenger numbers will continue to grow at a faster rate than available seats, so deals and discounts will be

harder to come by.

Virgin Atlantic, for example, claims to have load factors of more than 80 percent, especially on business routes like London-New York and London-Los Angeles. "Upper Class [business class] to Los Angeles costs £4,000 [about \$6,440] return," says Paul Moore, a spokesman at Virgin Atlantic in London. But we will fill those seats. The price reflects more people traveling and booming economies, relatively speak-ing, in the United States and Britain."

STRONG DEMAND Kyle Davis, vice president, purchasing management, at American Express in Paris, says: "Fares are rising much faster than inflation more than 30 percent in the U.S. in the last two years. Western European business fares had their highest increase in over two years in 1997 - up 20 percent year on the year, with the highest in-creases in Britain. This reflects strong demand especially for long-haul travel to most destinations. More people are traveling farther. You can expect business fares to rise by 6 to 7 percent in 1998."

Hotel rates are also rising everywhere. In North America, published rates of deluxe hotels rose by 21 percent last year; in Central and South America, they rose by 12 and 14 percent, respectively; in Western Europe by 6 percent and by 8 percent in Asia. Tourist hotel rates in North America rose by 37 percent and by 12 percent in Western Europe. As many business travelers trade down from deluxe to tourist hotels, they may find it (37 percent) are followed by in the air and on the ground of 31 airlines harder to find rooms at discounted prices.

Crowded planes, crowded hotels, were too bored to ask) about the arcane crowded schedules. This is what we can expect in 1998. The challenge will be how to travel smarter. Productivity is legroom (63 percent) is followed by utive lavatories, baggage allowances, the key: getting the most from your priority luggage-han-travel budget and making the most of punctuality (42.6 percent), convenient priority boarding, priority luggage-han-schedules (38.4 percent), airline service dling, amenity kits, in-flight cuisine and information technology by doing the job back at the office while you're on

Expressionist artist (born 1928) in

the early years of her career. The works address issues of formalism

Pierpont Morgan Library, tel:

(212) 685-0008, closed Mondays

and holidays. To May 3: "To Ob-serve and Imagine: British Draw-

ings and Watercolors." Beginning

with the early 17th century, the ex-

hibition offers 140 drawings and

watercolors by Fuseli, William Blake, Tumer, John Constable and

Corcoran Gallery of Art, tel: (202)

639-1703, closed Tuesdays. To

March 3: "Nancy Churn: Front Pages 1996." Churn Immersed herself in world affairs as presen-

ted by The New York Times. The

result is a series of 366 drawings-

on-newsprint that reflect the

artist's responses to the

the Pre-Raphaelites.

and evoke dream-like images.



ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS	France to Australia	Round-trip fare from Paris to Sydney or Brisbane for 8,000 francs (\$1,335) Until March 31.	
ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS	France to Japan	Round-trip economy ticket from Parls to Tokyo allows free onward or nections to Osaka, Fukuoka, Nagoya or Okinawa. Plus savings of almost percent on certain domestic flights. Examples: A Tokyo-Kagoshima rout trip costs 1,500 francs (\$250) instead of 2,477 francs (\$4,384 yen); Tokyo-Saka-Sapporo costs 800 francs. Until March 31.	
DRAGONAIR	Hong Kong to Japan	"Winter Package" for 5,900 Hong Kong dollars (\$760) includes round-true ticket to Sendai, three nights at Hotel Sunroute Zao with breakfast, airport transfers and travel insurance. Until March 31.	
QANTAS	Britain to Australia	Round-trip London to Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Cairns, Melbourne £667 (\$1,080). Minimum stay seven days, maximum one year. One sover allowed in each direction. For departures between April 16 and J 30. TravelMood (44-171) 258-0280.	
ROYAL BRUNEI	Britain to Asia	Round-trip £418 (\$677) from London Heathrow to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur Singapore, Denpasar, Jakarta, Hong Kong, Osaka or Manila. No munimum stay; maximum stay six months. Until April 3 and from April 19 to June 15. Trailfinders (44-171) 938-3939.	
VIRGIN ATLANTIC	Britain to United States	Round-Trip "Megasaver" fares from London to New York-Newark and Boston from £189 (\$305), to New York-JFK and Washington from £209, Los Angeles from £268, San Francisco from £289, Miaml from £293. All taxes included. Bookings must be made by Jan. 29.	
VIRGIN ATLANTIC	Britain to South Africa	Round-trip fare from London to Johannesburg for £496 (\$805) including taxes. For departure before Jan. 29.	
	•	HERE TO STAY	
DELTA-CENTURY HOTELS	Asia-Pacific	"Winter Sale" offers discounts of up to 50 percent on normal rates for single rooms. Examples: Century Hong Kong Hotel, \$99; Delta Grand Pacific Hotel, Bangkok, \$69; Bayview Park Hotel, Manila, \$79. Until March 15.	
HOLIDAY INN	Europe	"Winter Special" weekend rates at 240 properties from \$54 per room per night includes breakfast for two. Until Jan. 31.	
HYATT HOTELS	Worldwide	"Great Deal" promotion offers savings of up to 45 percent on published rates at 53 hotels in Asia-Pacific, Europe, South Africa, Middle East and South America. Until Feb. 28.	
MARCO POLO	Hong Kong	"Winter Saver" rate for 1,350 Hong Kong dollars (\$175) single and 1,450 double in "deluxe" room. Until March 31.	
MERIDIEN HOTELS	Worldwide	Winter promotion offers up to 50 percent off published rates at 113 properties in Europe, Middle East, Africa, India, North America and Asia, Until March 31.	
RENAISSANCE HOTEL	Hong Kong	"Winter Interlude" rate of 1,440 Hong Kong dollars (\$185), Until Jan. 31.	
SHERATON HOTELS	Europe and Israel	"Hot Winter Rates" discounts at 22 hotels and resorts. Examples: Single or double at the Sheraton Nevsky Palace in St. Petersburg for \$165; the Palace in Madrid, 25,000 pesetas (\$162); Hotel Bristol in Vienna, 1,220 schillings (\$95); the Four Points Paradise Jerusalem, \$81 single, \$98 double. Until Feb 28.	

GUIDE

National Gallery, tel: (171) 747-2885, open daily. To March 15: "Recognising van Eyck." Celebrates the 15th-century Flemish artist as a pioneering painter of landscapes and religious scenes.

Writechapei Art Gellery, tel:
(171) 522-7878, closed Mondays.
To March 15: "Thomas Schuette." The selection of works by the German artist (born 1954), concentrates on two aspects: the figure and architectural models. While his models fuse the quotidian with the utopian, his figures borrow from the carlcature and the gro-

FRANCE

hadis hadis Fondation Dina Vierny, Musee Maillol, tel: 01-42-22-59-58,

closed Tuesdays. To March 10: Ings and drawings by the French "Le Nu dans l'Oeuvre de Felix Val- artist (1879-1953).

Hotel de Suily, tel: 01-42-74-47-75, closed Mondays. To March 22: "Dorothea Lange." Documents a career — the works span the years 1915-1965 — characterized by a strong interest in human beings and social commitment. Features portraits, documentary works, and

lotton." More than 50 paintings by the Swiss painter (1865-1925) that depict the female body intimately, depict the female poory mumacery, sometimes even crudely.

Grand Palais, tel: 01-44-13-17, closed Tuesdays, Continuing/ To tel: (6) 771-4874. To March 22: "Angkor Wat and 10 Centuries of Partinaing in the 6th

Jan. 26: "Georges de La Tour, 1593-1652." war and travel photographs.

GERMANY

Deichtorhallen, tel: (40) 32-10-30, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To Feb. 1: "Francis Picabia: Das Spatwerk, 1933-1953." Late paint-

JAPAN

Khmer Art." Beginning in the 6th century and continuing for more than 1,000 years, Cambodian artists created monumental gods, guardians, female dancers and legendary creatures in sandstone as well as bronzes for rituals and cer emonies. The works embrace both Buddhist and Hindu traditions.

UNITED STATES

Guggenheim Museum, tel: (212) 423-3840, closed Thursdays. To May 3: "After Mountains and Sea': Frankenthaler 1956-1959." Works created by the American Abstract

CLOSING SOON

Jan. 18: "Herb Ritts: Work." Jan. 18: "Land der Bible." Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna. Temps du Roi Soleil." Musee Carnavalet, Paris.

Jan. 18: "La Collection Havemeyer: Quand l'Amerique Decouvrait l'impressionisme." Musee d'Orsay, Paris. Jan. 18: "Charles Camoin: Retro-

spective. 1879-1965." Musee Jan. 18: "The School of The Hague: A Retrospective." Kunst-

Jan. 18: "Arte Americana 1975-1995 dai Whitney Museum." Castello Di Rivoli-Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy. Mode." National Gallery, London. Jan. 18: "Carl and Karin Larsson:

Creators of the Swedish Style." Victoria & Albert Museum, London. iery of Ontario, Toronto. Jan. 18: "A Grand Design: The Art of the Victoria and Albert Mu-

timore. Jan. 18: "Monet and the Mediterranean." Brooklyn Museum, New York Jan. 18: "Arnold Boecklin, Giorgio de Chirico, Max Ernst: Eine Reise

ins Ungewisse." Kunsthaus, Zurich. Jen. 19: "Pajou, Sculpteur du Roi."

Louvre, Paris. Jan. 20: "Henri Matisse: La Revelation m'est Venue de l'Onent." Capitoline Museum, Piazza del Campidoglio, Rome.
Jan. 20: "On the Edge: Contem-

porary Art from the Werner and Dannheisser Collection." Museum of Modern Art. New

itants of Singer's world are

Singer's uncanny knack

for evoking a kind of raucous

human comedy around the

tellectual questions has never

been on better display, in a

book whose narrative mo-

mentum is unstoppable from

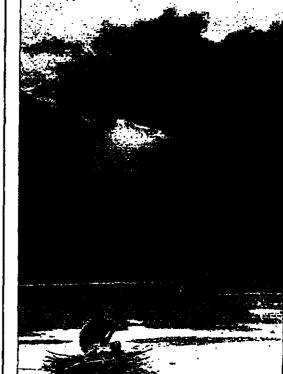
world, no matter how furi-

ously its denizens may strive

There is no escape in this

the very first pages.

opinion for that.



Isn't it time

you visited

A DREAMLAND?

The world's longest unbroken sea beach. The world's largest mangrove forest. Home of the Royal Bengal Tiger. Thousands of rivers and rivulets. Colourful hill tribes. Bangladesh a piece of heaven on earth.

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

B.O O K S

SHADOWS ON THE HUDSON

By Isaac Bashevis Singer. Translated by Joseph Sherman. 548 pages. \$28. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. Reviewed by Richard Bernstein

FIVEN the enormous output of Isaac Bashevis Singer, the dozen or so novels, the short-story collections, the various works for children and the two volumes of recollections, it comes as something of a surprise that there remained a full-length novel until now untranslated and unpublished in English.

But "Shadows on the Hudson," which was serialized in its original Yiddish in The Jewish Daily Forward 40 years ago, is surprising not to the savagery of life. only for that reason. One tends to think of posthumously pubtoric interest, brought out for the sake of completeness, and who won the Nobel Prize for examination of those riddles. Literature in 1978.

But this book, translated by Joseph Sherman with skillful editing by Jane Bobko and Robert Giroux, is a signifto the English-language Singpiercing work of fiction, a book with a strong claim to Yiddish manuscripts. being Singer's masterpiece.

Singer's other works, more heavily freighted with bitter-

many passages of caustic humor, this novel is Singer speaking in an unfamiliar raw and brutal voice, the grandpernatural fantasy that we mostly know him by.

'Shadows on the Hudson' in this sense is a kind of vastly expanded, more tragic, almost grotesque version of 'Enemies, a Love Story," about a man careering desperately among three women. But the new book's claim

on the status of masterpiece to unmerited tragic fate: the stems from its largeness, the depth and complexity of its exorbitantly vivid, intelligent Dostoyevskian skill at weaving into a seamless tapestry various disorderly responses The great Russian wrote in

"The Brothers Karamazov" lished works as mainly of his- that "God sets us nothing but riddles." The characters in "Shadows on the Hudson" this would certainly be jus- spend the two years of the tified in the case of Singer, novel's span in a boisterous

The book's publication not quite seven years after Sing-er's death in 1991 was slow for several reasons: its length, the publisher's difficulties in icant event, a major addition translating it and Singer's to the English-language Singer convre. It is a startling, time to get to the revisions he usually made on his original

It tells the stories of half a This is not merely because dozen or so major characters Shadows on the Hudson is and a somewhat larger numdarker than just about any of ber of minor ones, the sons

ness and anguish. Despite all of whom have made homes in New York in the years just after World War IL

Unlike other Singer characters, most of the figures in fatherly Yiddish writer "Shadows on the Hudson" stripped of the kindly, gentle are well off, living in material tone and the flights of su-comfort in fine apartments on pernatural fantasy that we the West Side of New York. But each of them also lives in the penumbra of grief and spiritual turmoil brought about by the Holocaust (a word that does not appear). By the end of Singer's

book, the reader has been presented with just about every conceivable response professor who desperately seeks to contact his murdered New Testament (a book that Grein, who "looked like a heavy experience or he believes only the Jews, and yeshiva boy from Scandina- lugubrious one. The inhabcertainly not the Christians, via." Grein was once a mathcapable of understanding); ematics and chess prodigy in far too outsize in emotion and the stockbroker who seeks a the old country and has bitter sort of solace in money and sex; the wealthy man of in mutual funds in America. religious orthodoxy whose fierce devotion to God leaves

no room for compassion. We meet most of the main figures in Singer's story at a dinner party at the Upper West Side apartment of Boris Makaver, a wealthy real-estate investor from Warsaw, who is almost the sole observant Jew in his crowd.

Among the guests are Boris's attractive daughter, Anna; her unattractive huswife via a medium; the paint- band, Stanislaw Luria, and a transforming experience. It is one that is forged deep within characters and from Singer's er who finds revelation in the man named Hertz Dovid not, it should be added, a the soul,

comedian named Yasha Kotik. a twisted, all-too-human figure who makes a show-stealing appearance later on. As Singer's book unfolds, we follow each of these characters on their troubled and yet acidly comedic journey

learned how to make money

Still offstage at this point is

Anna's first husband, a

through modern times.

for solace and redemption. Reading through these two Nobody averts the fatal comyears in the lives of Singer's bination of the tragedy that characters is a shattering, comes from without with the

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

SMALL man with a died recently after a brief illness, and will be greatly missed by the New York bridge community. His name was Norman Kurlander, 59, and he was the owner-manager, with Keith Garber, of the Bridge Haven Club, 65-55 Woodhaven Boulevard, Rego Park, Queens. Kurlander was an active tournament player who won many regional titles and a quarter of a century ago finished second in the National Men's Teams, an event that

no longer exists. Ed Andreasian, an old friend, recalls the diagramed probable that he would find a "Dammit," he shouted in

game played long ago. He sat lot of tricks in spades and ten instead of the nine we'd West, with Kurlander in the diamonds. As it transpired, have got em all!" East position. What would the dummy was not entirely SMALL man with a East position. What would the dummy large sense of humor have happened if Andreasian worthless. had opened with a weak-two bid in spades, as many would do, is far from clear. But he suit. East discarded four chose to pass, perhaps believing that his suit was too thin for this action when vulner- shifted to the diamond queen

> South's overcall of one notrump was entirely reason- clubs to save the king-queen able, with the hearts well of hearts. Kurlander cashed stopped and a solid suit to run, the heart ace, but had to sur-But when West made a good render the last trick to double, South's decision to dummy's club ten. stand his ground, rather than retreat to two clubs, was rash and collected a lot of cash. in the extreme. It was highly But he was not satisfied.

one heart.

deal from a rubber bridge worthless dummy and lose a mock fury, "if I'd had the club After a spade lead the de-

fense took six tricks in that hearts in ascending order and West knew what to do. He able, and his partner opened and the defenders took five \$Q4 tricks in that suit. South discarded all his

Kurlander had scored 1700

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VA 10865 ♦ A K9B3 SOUTH South 1 N.T. Compiled by Our Suff From Dispatches

PARIS - France and Russia offered Thursday to take a bigger role in checking Iraqi weapons, and China said that a United Nations inspection team challenged by Baghdad should be more bal-

President Bill Clinton, meanwhile, said Thursday that he was very encouraged that the UN Security Council "saw through" Iraq's complaints and manimously protested the blocking of an

American-led weapons inspection team. He disclosed no further planned U.S. action. "Now we have to see what hapcens," the president said as he left the White House for a trip to New York.

But at the United Nations, Iraq's chief delegate brushed aside the Security Council's latest demand for free access inforce its staff on the UN teams.

inspection teams to win Baghdad's full cooperation.

The delegate, Nizar Hamdoon, dismissed the Security Council statement: Well, I think we have lost our sensitivity to United Nations Security Council statements.

The UN inspectors, enforcing Gulf War cease-fire terms that prohibit Baghdad from owning weapons of mass destruction, have been stalled since Tuesday while Iraq complains that the teams are dominated by experts from the United States and its close ally Britain.

France, seeking to end the latest standoff, condemned Iraq's action as "unacceptable" and said it would re-

to weapons sites, saying that the UN In Beijing, a Foreign Ministry spokesmust reduce U.S. influence on its arms
man said the team should include memman said the team should includ bers from more countries.

The composition of this inspection team should as much as possible reflect the characteristic diversification of the United Nations and should be made up of people from more countries," the ministry's spokesman, Shen Guofang,

said at a briefing.

A French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman. Anne Gazean-Secret, said that Richard Butler, head of the UN commission charged with the inspections, would discuss how to reinforce French participation during a stopover in Paris on Friday on his way to Baghdad.

'We will offer to reinforce our efforts in favor of the special commission," she from Mr. Butler.

reconnaissance aircraft over Iraq if Baghdad banned U.S. observation flights from its airspace. "Our countries want the problems to be solved peacefully," the Russian defense minister, Igor Sergeyev, said at a news conference

during a visit to Paris.
"If Iraq is against the U-2s, we can propose Russian-made planes that have the same performance as U.S. aircraft, last year when Iraq expelled American and that can be the start of a solution."

In Iraq, Alan Dacey, special assistant to the director of the Baghdad Mon-itoring and Verification Center, said that the team lead by Scott Ritter, an American, was awaiting further instructions

Mr. Butler, who is due to arrive in sia and China.

send out Mr. Ritter's team after Iraq blocked it from sites on Tuesday and Wednesday. This blocking of the inspectors' work has prompted the renewed standoff between Iraq and the United Nations and drawn U.S. calls for

a tougher stand against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The confrontation follows a crisis late members of the inspection team. They

were later readmitted and allowed to

resume work. Diplomats say Iraq has been hoping to exploit differences between what it regards as a hard-line British-American approach and the stance of France, Rus-. (Reuters, AP)

even in elevators, a Barcelona lawyer has filed the first wrongful death lawsuit against Spain's state-run tobacco com-pany, seeking \$400,000 in damages for the widow of a smoker who died of hung

cancer in 1993. The attorney, Gustavo Cirac Benedi, said Thursday that the tobacco company, Tabacalera SA, had "concealed the risks of tobacco addiction and smoking" from the deceased, who smoked one of Tabacalera's most popular cigarette

BRIEFLY

Tobacco Suit in Spain

MADRID - In a nation where

nonsmoking rules are routinely ignored,

Banks

urope

Mr. Cirac said he decided to file the civil case after reading newspaper reports about tobacco lawsuits in the United States. The attorney had been a neighbor of the late smoker in the same apartment building in Barcelona. (NYT)

Tajikistan Talks End

MOSCOW - Peace talks broke down Thursday in restive Tajikistan when opposition representatives abruptly quit the national reconciliation commission in the Central Asian re-

It was the most serious crisis since the commission, composed of representatives from the government and the Muslim opposition, began work last year following nearly five years of civil

An opposition statement gave no indication that anti-government forces would return to warfare, but the breakdown could lead to renewed confron-

Even before the talks faltered, some opposition groups were opposed to the peace process, and the apparent collapse of negotiations could strengthen their

Rains Cripple Nairobi

NAIROBI - Thousands of residents of Kenya's capital, Nairobi, were kept at home on Thursday by torrential rains that cut off entire districts and threatened the country's tourism and farm-based economy.

A steady downpour attributed to the El Niño weather phenomenon has flooded the capital's already collapsing roads and submerged houses and tin shacks in the city's shantytowns.

In a middle-class neighborhood in Nairobi's South B district, teenagers formed emergency water transport gangs, ferrying residents on their backs or in makeshift plastic canoes.

The rains have added to deteriorating sanitation in Nairobi, once rated one of

Tensions Flare in Gaza As Israeli and Palestinian **Troops Aim at Each Other** Israeli military sources said the car had broken through the checkpoint. GUSH KATIF, Gaza Strip — Israeli and Palestinian troops aimed rifles at Witnesses said that after the shooting, each other in the heart of Gaza on Thurstwo Palestinian policemen stood, pointday, underscoring Middle East tensions ing their guns at two Israeli soldiers less than a meter away.

ahead of a U.S. presidential push to resurrect peacemaking. Witnesses said the two-hour standoff Palestinians against the Israeli govern-ment's expansion of Jewish settlements

on occupied land and its hard line in peace negotiations. Tensions have been growing ahead of President Bill Clinton's meetings on Tuesday at the White House with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and two days later with the Palestinian

months of deadlock. Israeli troops, some prone and others standing, trained their rifles on Palestinian police and on protesters who blocked a road during the demonstration near the Kfar Darom Jewish settlement.

Palestinian police assumed similar poses in a scene reminiscent of 1996 bloodshed that claimed the lives of 61 Arabs and 15 Israeli soldiers following Israel's opening of an entry to a tourist tunnel in Arab East Jerusalem.

Just as a joint Israeli-Palestinian patrol appeared to be defusing tensions. a Palestinian in a car was shot and lightly wounded in his hand by an Israeli soldier at a nearby roadblock.

Some time later, Israeli and Palestinian officers restored order at the occurred during a protest by about 300 scene. Most of the Gaza Strip was handed over to PLO rule under interim peace deals dating back to 1993.

Washington and the Palestinians indicated surprise when Israel's cabinet on Wednesday identified large segments of West Bank land including settlements as "vital national interests," suggesting they could not be ceded to Palestinians.

Washington has demanded that Mr. Netanyahu meet peace agreements by ordering a "significant and credible" leader, Yasser Arafat, to try to end 10 West Bank troop pullback. It has also pushed for a "time-out" in expansion of

> were "putting all the obstacles before going to Washington while we are looking to achieve something concrete from these meetings in Washington."

was asked in Amman, Jordan, on Wednesday if a new Palestinian uprising could break out if his talks with Mr. Clinton failed to produce results.

In Washington, a U.S. official said



A soldier aiming Thursday at Palestinian stone-throwers in Hebron protesting at an Israeli settlement.

broader consultations on the Middle

Israeli media were full of reports that He said all options were open when he ire at the rightist government's reluc-tance to pull back its troops.

Jews live.

Mr. Netanyahu's talks with Mr. Clinton

Mr. Arafat, speaking in the West Bank
town of Hebron, said that the Israelis

Were "mutting all the transfer of the peace process back
would be strictly limited to Israeli-Palestinian issues and would not include Clinton and Mr. Netanyahu would not

> The Israeli cabinet decided Tuesday an angry Mr. Clinton would deny Mr. not to make any withdrawal until Mr. Netanyahu a lunch and a request to hold Arafat's PLO met a 12-page Israeli list wider regional discussions to signal his of demands on carrying out security and other commitments agreed to in a U.S.brokered document a year ago. It issued "This is focused on what Israel needs a loosely defined list of "vital interests"

■ Albeight Pushes for Pullouts

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is insisting on further Israeli pullbacks on the West Bank despite moves by the Israeli cabinet to establish permanent control of certain parts of the territory, The Associated Press reported Thursday from Washington.

"It is premature to make those kinds of statements at this stage," Mrs. Albright told National Public Radio in New

Slavery and Dreyfus Remark: Jospin to Apologize to Right

PARIS — Prime Minister Lionel
Jospin said Thursday that he was prepared to apologize to the sight ——

Menuers

made the remarks that he then said were of historical record.

Speaking of slavery he said 'error pared to apologize to the sight — pared to apologize to the right-wing opposition for a remark that the right favored slavery 150 years ago and opposed justice in the Dreyfus case.

Outraged conservative deputies stormed out of the National Assembly on Wednesday after Mr. Jospin, a Socialist,

ABC News Says 'No' To Brinkley's Ads

The Associated Press
NEW YORK — ABC News said it had informed the advertising agency of the agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland that it

would no longer accept commercials featuring the famed former newsman David Brinkley.

The ads display Mr. Brinkley, 77, in a role similar to the one he had performed as host of ABC's "This Week." The commercials began airing Jan. 4 during breaks in the Sunday morning public-affairs pro-

Archer Daniels Midland is a longtime sponsor of the show.

Mr. Brinkley retired last October

from the program he began in 1981. The Brinkley commercials were cleared by the network before they aired, an ABC spokeswoman said. "But we were told the spots would air on other Sunday morning public-affairs programs, too," she said. "Based on that, we decided there

left was certainly for abolition and that was not the case of the right, just as the left was for Dreyfus and the right was against him."

Mr. Jospin said Thursday: "I imagine the opposition will criticize me during next week's parliamentary questioning and I will certainly offer my regrets."

His decision to apologize followed intense media criticism of the remarks. Even his supporters said it was an awkward and ill-timed provocation.

This week, France has been observing the 100th anniversary of one of the most influential manifestos in history, Emile Zola's "J'Accuse" in defense of Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish captain in the French Army. Dreyfus was arrested in 1894 and sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of spying for Germany, only to be cleared in 1906.

Mr. Jospin brought up the issue of Dreyfus when he was asked what France planned to do to make up for its role in the African slave trade in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Ushers threw a protective cordon around Mr. Jospin as the conservative deputies poured out of their seats and

angrily surged toward him shouting:
"Resign! Resign!"
He later said: "I didn't say that the right of today was against Dreyfus. I don't think they would be against him today, so I don't understand any need to identify note that the interest and any need to

identify with the right of yesteryear."

He was also criticized for inaccuracy in calling Leon Gambetta, a former prime minister, a Dreyfus supporter. Mr. Gambetta died in 1882, more than a decade before the case.

to do and what the Palestinian Authority on Wednesday. Africa's best-kept cities. KNEES: Shining a Bright Light Behind Them May Be the Way to Vanquish Jet Lag

Continued from Page 1

have profound implications for basic biology, overturning conventional ideas of how biological clocks are set and where they are located in the body.

It may also lead to new treatments for seasonal depression, sleep disorders and jet lag — airline passengers could wear a knee brace with a light source that would reset their biological clocks as they sleep during the flight.

The study was carried out by Dr. Scott Campbell and Dr. Patricia Murphy, both at the Laboratory of Human Chronobiology at Cornell University Medical College in White Plains, New York.

When life first began, primitive creatures needed to have a way of keeping time and of knowing when it is light or dark, Dr. Campbell said. And so they evolved a variety of internal biological clocks: cells or clumps of cells that oscillate every 24 hours, sending out signals that control a host of behaviors such as when to wake up, go to sleep, eat, mate, hibernate and the like.

Some creatures have light-sensitive cells on various parts of their bodies that help regulate the master clock. Horseshoe crabs have clock sensors on their tail, swallows have them just inside their skull and, according to a recent finding that stunned many biologists, fruit flies have timekeeping genes active in their legs, wings and hair bristles, suggesting that their entire body helps keep track of time. Because day length changes through the sea-sons, every animal has to reset its

clocks every day.

Humans are thought to possess a single master clock in the brain that "gives temporal organization to everything that we do," Dr. Campbell said, "but no one ever imagined we had light-sensitive cells on any part of our bodies" outside of the eye.



Even the eye presents a mystery, he said. It contains special cells that gather light and enable vision. But these cells, called rods and cones, have nothing to do with resetting biological clocks. Many blind people experience jet lag, suggesting that undiscovered light-sen-sitive cells in the eyes are sending important information about day length to the brain. Despite years of looking, no one has ever found such cells in the

"We thought we should look on the skin," Dr. Campbell said. An experiment done a decade earlier by Dr. Wehr found that a couple of people with winter depression got better when light was administered to their face, arms and legs and not to the eyes, he

"Dr. Wehr said it was so interesting, that someone should some day repeat the experiment. So we did."

Fifteen volunteers came to the laboratory for four days and nights. On the first night, researchers determined each person's biological rhythm using two standard measures: body core temperature and the rise in a hormone called melatonin.

"Your body temperature rises throughout the day and begins to decline around 7 or 8 o'clock at night,"

supractinastrianc nucleus, or SCN, in the brain. The SCN is still the master clock, he said, but this means there are other pathways for getting light to it. Dr. Campbell said. It falls to its lowest point about 5 or half past 5 in the morning and slowly starts to go up again. In a similar vein, melatonin begins to increase around 10 o'clock at night and makes people feel sleepy. It falls off again during the day.

On the second night, the subjects stayed awake in a dimly lit room, reclining in a chair with a table over their as a carrier of the light signal. On the second night, the subjects stayed awake in a dimly lit room, relaps. A thick black material was draped over their legs and fastened to their many blood vessels but it is usually waists. Underneath this skirt, a knee covered by clothing, Dr. Oren said.

pad with a fiber optic tube was attached to the back of their knees and a bright light was delivered through the tube for three hours. A fan carried away any heat from a nearby halogen lamp that provided the light

Subjects received light behind the knees at various times between mid-night and noon, Dr. Campbell said. For example, one man got the light treat-ment between 1 and 4 A.M. and another between 6 and 9 A.M.

Other subjects were put under the same dark skirt, kept awake the same amount of time and given the same instructions. But researchers did not turn on the light source. Neither group knew if it was getting the light treatment or not.

For those treated with light, the timing of their minimum body temperature shifted by up to three hours. Those getting the sham treatment experienced small but statistically insignificant changes in their bodily rhythms, Dr. Campbell said.

"This is the first demonstration that you can affect the human clock without going through the eyes," Dr. Campbell said. "We assume that somehow a message is getting from the back of the knee to the master clock," called the suprachiasmatic nucleus, or SCN, in

other pathways for getting light to it. How this happens is a major challenge to biologists. It could be by way of skin cells, which are sensitive to light. But how the message would get back to the brain is puzzling.

Dr. Dan Oren, a researcher at the Yale School of Medicine in New

The back of the knee happens to have

YELTSIN: Russian Leadership Paralyzed in President's Absence

Continued from Page 1

would be no viewer confusion.'

illnesses. The president, who will turn 67 on Feb. 1, underwent quintuple coronary artery bypass surgery in November 1996, which was followed by a bout of "moderately grave" double pneumo-nia. He roared back onto the political scene last spring and summer but

faltered again this winter. Mr. Yeltsin made a series of gaffes minister would become acting president while on a visit to Sweden, then was sidelined by what was first described as a -months. But according to analysts, there 'bad cold' and later as a viral infection. Doctors denied he was suffering from a new bout of heart trouble but took him to a Moscow heart center for a checkup. There have been repeated rumors, also denied by the Kremlin, that Mr. Yeltsin

suffered a stroke in December. The vacation that followed has been

only brief bulletins saying that he is "working on papers." Mr. Yeltsin's schedule repeatedly has been pushed back. For example, the much ballyhooed public accounting of his government for its performance in 1997, which was to have taken place in December, her bean performance of the company to the paper the opposition and Valsin and have taken place in December, has been

rescheduled for February. Under the Russian Constitution, if the president is incapacitated, the prime is a strong desire among political leaders in Moscow to avoid new turnult and new elections, if only because there is still

uncertainty about who would prevail. "We see a certain cease-fire. The financial groups are consolidating, getting ready for another round of struggle over state property. Now we are in a or Chernomyrdin; Mayor Yuri Luzhkov

between the opposition and Yeltsin, and the Communists challenged him all the time on his health. Now I think there is another mood inside the political elite. All of them realize they are in the same boat. The paramount objective is just to ensure their position, their privileges, their fortunes.

Separately, Mr. Yeltsin's would-be heirs are laying the groundwork for possible election campaigns, though his term does not expire for more than two years. Likely candidates, if an election were held soon, would be Prime Minister Viktreminiscent of earlier periods when Mr.
Yeltsin was seriously ill. He has been isolated and has not met with his sub-ordinates, and the Kremlin has issued of coalition-building," said Andrei Kortunov, a political and foreign policy analyst. "No one really wants to ifree the first bullet. Everyone under-own line who leads them all in recent polls.

Kremlin Denies Reports Chernomyrdin Is Sick

MOSCOW - Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin missed a cabinet meeting Thursday after an exhausting trip to Central Asia, but the government dismissed reports that he might be ill.

The government spokesman, Igor Shabdurasulov, said Mr. Chemomyrdin, 59, had decided to work at a country residence after returning from two days of talks in

He denied comments by a source in the government who said the prime minister was at a sanatorium outside Moscow. The spokesman said Mr.

Willy Brandt's personal office and

clined to say, arguing that the trial of Mr. Flamig was no more than a continuation

of the Cold War. The court, however, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

their targets. For decades, Western in-telligence operatives did not even know Chernomyrdin had asked First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoli Chubais to preside over a cabinet

SPY: Wolf Is Jailed for Refusing to Testify

Continued from Page 1

whose unmasking ended Mr. Brandt's political career in 1974.

Mr. Brandt's for operations directed from their own contents. Who, then, was "Julius," state pros-ecutors wanted to know. Mr. Wolf de-

ruled that Mr. Wolf had no right to withhold the identity of "Julius."

The jailing of Mr. Wolf capped decades of drama During the Cold War. Mr. Wolf specialized in infiltrating West Germany and the NATO allies with spies, so-called sleepers and seducers who wheedled pillow-talk secrets from

on, ordered in 1993 but never enforced, roling that former East German intelligence officers could not be accused as their own country.

Last May, Mr. Wolf was found guilty on three counts of kidnapping but was given a two-year suspended jail term that allowed him to walk free just days before his memoirs were published in the United States by Times Books/Random House, a unit of Advance Publications.

under the title "Man Without a Face." But even after the publication of the book, Mr. Wolf still fuels many tantalizing enigmas. The identity of many of his operatives and informants remains a mystery, and he made clear at Mr. Flamig's trial that he would not expose their targets. For decades, western in-telligence operatives did not even know what he looked like.

Then, in the reunified Germany, Mr.

Then, in the reunified Germany, Mr. Wolf fought long legal banies to stay struggle, he nonetheless rose to high rank free. In 1995, the country's highest court in the East German state security system overturned a six-year jail term for treas-

meeting Thursday.

A Warning For Banks In Europe

Popular by Moody's Says Exposure In Asia May Hurt Ratings

PARIS — Moody's Investor Services Inc. has warned European banks that exposure to Asia's troubled economics carled around a ca Infilitistan Talks En might institutions. On Wed omies could prove costly, saying that it might review or downgrade financial

On Wednesday, Moody's said it might cut its rating on about \$10 billion in debt from the French state-controlled bank Credit Lyonnais SA because of what it called the bank's "very large"

what it called the bank's "very large exposure to troubled Asian economies.

On Thursday, the credit-rating agency issued a report in Hong Kong agency issued a report in Hong Kong agency issued a report in Assay also were that said some German banks also were that said some Octuber of Alexandra vulnerable to a downgrade. Alexandra and analyst at vulnerable to a cowing and analyst at throng a Sleator, vice president and analyst at throng 1 radio Slearor, vice president and analysis in London, told Europe 1 radio on Thursday that the debt of other might be downgraded. French banks might be downgraded.
"We did not choose to focus our

attack, if it is perceived as such, against Credit Lyonnais," Ms. Sleator said. She added that Moody's was in the process of reviewing the exposure to Asia of banks around the world.

"If the Asian crisis doesn't end in acceptable conditions, the losses that could stem from Credit Lyonnais's loan portfolio could eat up a good part of the bank's equity, and this could bring about a succession of require a capital, which in turn could require a about a substantial deterioration in its new rescue plan from the French govemment," Ms. Sleator said. "This is clearly a worst-case scenario, whose

probability is perhaps small." Credit Lyonnais said it had \$9 billion in loans outstanding to Asian countries, excluding Japan. That would give the bank's the third-largest exposure to Asia among French banks, according to a November study by Banque Paribas, which says Societe Generale SA comes first, with \$17.1 billion and Banque Nationale de Paris SA comes second, with \$14 billion.

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Some analysts in France said Moody's review of Credit Lyonnais's ratings was the most concrete sign so far that the crisis roiling Asia could

Noting that some German institutions already had negative rating outlooks. Moody's said that increasingly risky foreign exposure, as well as a continuwould probably result in "individual adjustments downward" in some

But Moody's said deposit ratings of banks in Germany should remain rel-atively high in global comparisons be-cause of stable franchises and solid fundamentals in many cases.

not at its nature. On Asia's six most fragile countries, he said, Credit Lyonnais's exposure was \$8 billion, and th 5 loans," he said.

Credit Lyonnais said Moody's move was "questionable" in light of its profit outlook, which was good enough to accommodate provisions for bad loans. It expects a profit of some 1.2 billion francs in 1997, six times more than in 1996, Nicolas Chaine, a spokesman, said. The French government is in talks with the European Commission about a third state bailout for the bank, which nearly collapsed after a wild expansion spree in the 1980s.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

France Sees Impact on Growth

Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn of France said that the Asian financial turmoil would trim between 0.3 and 0.5 percentage point off growth this year, the first time he has estimated the effect of lower exports to the region, Bloomberg News reported.

Obviously without the shock the growth would have been faster, above 3 percent," Mr. Strauss-Kahn said. "But we are sticking to our forecasts of growth of 3 percent.



South Koreans protesting Thursday in the central bank against a bill to allow layoffs at financial institutions.

South Korean Unionists Dig In Against Layoffs

Workers Plan to Use Panel to Block Labor Law

By Don Kirk

SEOUL - A day after backing off from threats of nationwide strikes, South Korean union leaders made clear Thursday that they still intended to fight the risk of mass layoffs.

Rather than stage massive walkouts and demonstrations to prevent the layoffs, the two biggest union federations plan to block passage of a tough new labor law in an entirely different forum - a newly formed national committee that includes leaders of the union group-

ings, big business and government.
Officials of the union federations outlined their strategy just as the newly established committee was holding its first meeting at the behest of Presidentelect Kim Dae Jung and the Interna-tional Monetary Fund, which argues that layoffs are necessary for South Korea to recover from economic turmoil.

"There will be very strong controversy on the law," said Ahn Dong Sul, director of the international division of the Federation of Korean Trade Unions, the nation's largest labor organization with about 1.2 million members. "We

will discuss how to amend it."
In no way, Mr. Ahn said, would the federation approve "legislating lay-

[Separately, Seoul said it remained opposed to swapping commercial bank debt for government debt as part of a \$25 billion refinancing arrangement with its biggest creditor banks, indicating that a refinancing agreement may still be weeks away, Bloomberg News reported.

Last week, banks led by Citicorp. J.P. Morgan & Co. and Chase Manhattan Corp. recommended that Seoul sell bonds and swap bank debt for gov-ernment securities to stave off the threat of a default. But South Korea would prefer to extend the maturity of some of the bank loans in return for a repayment guarantee from the government and thus delay the bond sale.

["It is too costly to sell government debt, as the country's credit rating is at junk bond levels, Finance Minister Lim Chang Yuel said. "We will push ahead with the \$9 billion bond sale only after international credit rating companies raise Korea's credit rating."]

Mr. Lim estimated South Korea's foreign exchange reserves would reach \$24 billion at the end of March and \$40.7 billion at the end of the year if Seoul abided by the International Monetary Fund's rescue program.

On the issue of layoffs, Presidentelect Kim said Thursday that he hoped a compromise would emerge. Does it matter whether the man-

agement wins or the labor union wins." he asked the first meeting of the tripartite committee.

Mr. Kim, who takes office Feb. 25, added, "We have every possibility of economic rebirth" --- provided workers and owners cooperate.

At the very least, labor officials said, their agreement to participate in the committee would force the National Assembly to postpone debate on a law to permit layoffs in financial institutions legislation widely viewed as a precursor to a law allowing labor-intensive industries to dismiss thousands of workers. 'There will be no legislation that will

be passed," said Yang Young Mo, international secretary of the Korea Confederation of Trade Unions, who

IMF: Caught in Middle of Asia Blame Game

By Peter Passell New York Times Service

EW YORK — Who lost Asia? No, the vandals are not at the gates of Bangkok, Seoul or Jakarta. But with Thailand on the brink of depression, South Korea in shock over the rude ending to its economic miracle and Indonesia facing a succession crisis, finger-pointing seems irresistible. On one side stand liberals including

Joseph Stiglitz, chief economist at the World Bank, who are critical of the International Monetary Fund's failure to distinguish between Asia's problems and the more fundamental failings of the economies of Latin America and Africa. The Fund's reflexive demands for austerity, he suggests, will unnecessarily prolong Asia's agony. On the other side are skeptics inchuding Rudi Dornbusch, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who see this currency crisis along with Asian resistance to the Fund's demands for fiscal and monetary austerity — as symptoms of deeper rot. "The Asian economies I the same as Latin America's."

Governments that end up on the IMF's doorstep typically spend borrowed money on palaces or highways to nowhere. So when they run out of dollars, or when foreign investors scramble for the exits, the Fund's con-

ditions for loans are invariably these: Step One: Balance the budget, put strict limits on the supply of money, and allow interest rates to rise. The idea is to restore price stability convince **ECONOMIC SCENE**

vestors, domestic and foreign,

that it is safe to hold the local cur-

Step Two: Rebuild economic institutions using the template of modern free-market capitalism. That involves everything from privatizations to eliminating consumer subsidies to nourishing honest, competitive banking.

Mexico, the Fund's highest-profile patient before the current Asian crisis, suffered mightily from austerity imposed by outsiders. Yet by most accounts, it emerged from a deep recession on much sounder footing.

The hastily drawn plans for Thaihe says. "They're even more corrupt and have wasted even more capital." cut from the same cloth. While the Mhile the IMF's critics acknowledge emphasis is on Step Two — particular that high interest rates may help to coax

in a wave of forced bank closings. Moreover, to find money to

capitalism" - Asia's jobless might be

Tight credit is the order of the day.

Most businesses cannot borrow, while

others pay punishingly high interest rates. Already, an internal IMF report

on Indonesia has admitted to missteps

positors in failed

banks, the Fund

excused for missing the nuance.

insists that public spending be That galls Mr. Stiglitz, the World Bank economist, who argues that Asia, with its high savings rate, strong work ethic and high productivity, should not be lumped in with the classically mismanaged undeveloped economies.

"You don't want to push these countries into severe recession," he has said. "One ought to focus on the things that caused the crisis, not on things that make it more difficult to deal with.'

from countries that are already in resion because of lack of demand?

ularly in reforming banking systems at the fulcrum of Asia's notorious "crony will still prove counterproductive. The public rationale for the tough

measures is the need to contain the currency panic. But less diplomatic supporters of austerity also want to cut off any backlash against sweeping reforms. They see opposition to stern measures as the last gasp of the failing 'Asian-style'' capitalism that produced rapid growth by wastefully mobilizing domestic savings. Albert Fishlow, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, wor-

ries that the schism is making pragmatic problem-solving more difficult. None of the current IMF programs in Asia are currently valid," he says, because they all assumed currency depreciation would be checked with the first infusion of dollars. On the other hand, he suggests, the IMF's critics are too readily lumping

together countries in varying circumstances. "What works for Korea may not work in the less sophisticated Thai and Indonesian environments," he warns. But most important, Mr. Fishlow Why demand balanced budgets adds, the policy squabble is distracting attention from what appears to be a systemic failure of global capitalism "The old rules didn't work, and the new emphasis is on Step Two - partic- that high interest rates may help to coax ones haven't been invented," he said.

See KOREA, Page 15

Laura Ashley Predicts Lyonnais's executive committee, said that Moody's had looked only at the bank's "global amount" of exposure, not at its annual of exposure, and a state of exposure, and a

Compiled by Our Staff From Disposches

LONDON — Laura Ashley Holdings we've had no problem on those PLC warned Thursday of big losses this year, with poor Christmas sales adding to the fashion and fabrics retailer's

The company said weak home-furnishings sales, particularly in North America, and heavy discounting would cause a loss of £23 million to £26 million (\$37.5 million to \$42.4 million) in the financial year that ends this month. The losses would not include any costs for restructuring, which is likely to fo-cus initially on North America.

The company's shares fell 24.6 percent, or 8.5 pence, to close at 26

The poor figures cap a troubled year for Laura Ashley. The retailer, whose flowery fashions once had an almost cult-like popularity, has closed factories, canceled store openings and fired its chief executive, Ann Iverson, in November after it issued a series of forecasts for lower earnings. Its shares traded at 219 pence in September

Ms. Iverson, hired in 1995 to turn the company around, was replaced by David Hoare, who pledged a sweeping review of the company, which posted a

first-half loss of £4.5 million. It posted a profit of £16.2 million for the previous

The company also announced plans to sell five factories in Wales and the Netherlands as part of the restructuring, allowing it to focus solely on retailing. These included two sewing factories in Oswestry and Gresford, a wallpaper

and fabric printing plant in Newtown and a made-to-measure and fabric cutting factory in Camo, Wales, where Laura Ashley started her business in The company's legal director, Steph-

en Cox, said that the manufacturing businesses were profitable and that there had been some expressions of interest from potential buyers. The company was hopeful of concluding a sale by the time its full-year results were published in April.

Mr. Cox said that he did not expect any job cuts resulting from the sale and that the factories would continue to supply Lanra Ashley. Last August, the company closed two

garment-sewing factories at Caernarfon and Machynlleth, Wales, that were los-

See ASHLEY, Page 15



Members of the "ER" cast discussing a case during a rehearsal, NBC is investing heavily in the show.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

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At \$850 Million, Can 'ER' Rescue NBC?

By Bill Carter

PASADENA, California — The NBC network has agreed to pay Warner Brothers, the studio that owns the drama "ER." about \$13 million an episode over the next three years, or a total of more than \$850 million, making the medical series the most expensive U.S. television show ever.

The deal was reached Wednesday, a day after the National Football League concluded the richest television deal in history, a \$17.6 billion eight-year deal with three networks, not including NBC, and a cable broadcaster.

Taken together, the deals showed how the television networks, weakened by losses of viewers to cable channels, feel compelled to pay once unheard-of prices to retain the few programs that generate consistently large audiences. The NBC agreement comes close to

ripling the amount the network earlier agreed to pay for what has turned out to be the last season of its hit comedy series "Seinfeld."

Many network executives said in interviews here that the crushing programming costs were likely to lead networks

to increase their efforts to own or control very program they put on the air. NBC, which is owned by General Electric Co., announced it had concluded negotiations with Warner Brothers, which is a subsidiary of Time

Warner Inc., to hold onto television's most popular show without giving any financial details. But several executives on both sides of the negotiations said the price was \$13 million an episode, a figure that exceeded even the speculation that it could go as high as \$10

The show features an attractive cast of young doctors and nurses working in a Chicago hospital emergency room. It is the most valuable property in television for numerous reasons, beginning with its high ratings and the attractive makeup of its audience, which includes a high percentage of the adults between the ages of 18 and 49 that most advertisers seek to reach.

The show has also proved to be television's best lead-in in decades to local news on affiliated stations, and it helped rebuild NBC's "Tonight" into television's dominant late-night franchise.

Don Ohlmeyer, president of NBC's West Coast entertainment division, said

its bid to retain "ER." He added that NBC was confident "we won't lose money" on the deal, even without considering those ancillary benefits.

Still, the per-episode price of \$13 million towers over anything previously paid for rights to broadcast a television

Most series cost networks between \$1 million and \$1.5 million. "ER" itself now costs about \$2 mil-

lion. This season, NBC agreed to pay a then-record \$5.5 million an episode for But the star of that series, Jerry Sein-

feld, announced last month that he was shutting down production on the comedy in May. That only increased the pressure on NBC to keep possession of its other ratings leader, "ER."

Mr. Ohimeyer said that the imminent loss of "Seinfeld" helped force more millions out of the NBC treasury. 'Obviously the loss of 'Seinfeld' in-

creased the importance of making sure we kept 'ER,' '' he said. Robert Daly, chairman of Warner Brothers Inc., agreed that the timing of Seinfeld's decision "certainly didn't

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Very briefly:

• Bowater Inc., the largest U.S. newsprint producer, said increased paper prices and lower operating costs raised its fourth-quarter earnings to \$30.1 million, compared with \$18.2 million for the like period last year. Sales rose 7.8 percent, to

 Commonwealth Edison Co., a unit of Unicom Corp., will close its Zion Nuclear Generating Station in Illinois after nearly 25 years of operation and take a charge of \$515 million. Unicom said it was closing the plant because it would be mable to produce power at a cost that would be competitive in the deregulated utility market.

 The Brazilian unit of Volkswagen AG of Germany reached an agreement with its unionized workers to cut benefits instead of jobs to compensate for sales declines that forced a 30 percent drop in car output since November.

 Suiza Foods Corp. plans to buy Continental Can Co. for about \$345 million in stock and debt as the dairy and packaging company seeks to raise sales of plastic packages.

• Frontier Corp. plans to buy Global Center Inc., an Internet service provider, for \$201.8 million in stock and assumed debt as the telephone company accelerates its push into com-

Keating Conviction Is Reinstated

The Associated Press SAN FRANCISCO - A federal appeals court reinstated

Thursday the state securities fraud convictions of Charles Keating Jr., the former head of Lincoln Savings. Mr. Keating was convicted in both state and federal courts

of defrauding thousands of investors who bought high-risk junk bonds, but both convictions were overturned because of jury misconduct in the federal case.

Mr. Keating was released in 1996 after serving more than

Kodak's Results Send a Shudder Through Wall Street

profit reports were on the way.

Kodak closed down 11/4 at 583/4 after fourth quarter, weighed down by the bering gaining ones by a 5-to-4 ratio costs of 16,600 job cuts and a price war on the New York Stock Exchange. with Japanese rival Fuji that contributed to a 13 percent sales drop. Kodak earned a net \$164 million

the year-earlier period. Sales were \$3.83 billion, down from \$4.42 billion. Even without the cost of job cuts and other one-time items, profit would have fallen 38 percent, to \$246 million.

NEW YORK - Stocks fell Thurs- the Dow Jones industrial average day after poor results from Kodak down 92.92 points to close at foundations of the seven-year-old stoked investors fears that more bad 7,691.77. The broader market also bull market. was weak, with the Standard & Poor's 500 index closing down 7.20 ample, closed down 31/2 at 101/2 after reporting a loss of \$744 million for the at 950.74 and losing issues outnum-

> "We're going to see more earnings on the negative side than the positive side in the next couple of weeks," said Richard Sichel, chief investment officer at Bryn Mawr orders Trust Co. "I don't know how safe anyone can be."

Kodak's weakness helped pull ings growth in 1998 for U.S. compa-earnings estimates because some mies, dealing a blow to one of the big customers were not spending as

Powerwave Technologies, for ex-

U.S. STOCKS

the maker of frequency-power amplifiers said economic and currency conditions in South Korea might cause its customers there to cancel

ADC Telecommunications was the most active U.S. stock, falling 5 Investors are concerned that weak 9/16 to 307/16 on concern the phone Asian economies will crimp eam- equipment company would not meet \$43.6 million a year earlier.

much as expected. ADC's competitors also fell, with Tellabs dropping 1 13/16 to 49 7/16. "The stock market abhors un-

certainty, and earnings are the biggest variable out there now," said John Cleland, chief investment strategist at Security Benefit Group. The strength of corporate earnings, and how profits fare in 1998, are the questions everybody is seekg an answer to.'

Unisys fell 11/16 to 151/2 after posting a loss of \$965.7 million for

But the profit news was not all bad. Digital Equipment rose 11/4 to 391/4 after saying its second-quarter profit more than doubled as it improved management of sales and inventory,

The computer maker earned a net \$74.8 million, up from \$31.9 million, even as revenue slipped to \$3.32 billion from \$3.36 billion. Digital said sales would have risen 6 percent without the effects of the dollar's rise against Asian and European currencies.

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In the Treasury bond market, the price of the benchmark 30-year issue fell 5/32 point, to 105 131/32, the fourth quarter. It had a profit of leaving the yield steady at 5.74 per-

Dollar Gains on Mark

Talk of New Japanese Stimulus Bolsters the Yen

rose against the Deutsche mark Thursday after the head of the Bundesbank suggested that German interest rates were not headed higher and a credit rating company said it duction of the common Euromight cut its rating on Russia, pean currency next January. one of Germany's major bor-

But the dollar fell against the yen amid expectations at 3.30 percent, would not rise that the Japanese government would develop additional plans to increase domestic deposits and bonds less attractconsumer spending and stabilize financial markets.

Concern about Russia emerged as Moody's Investors Service Inc. said it might lower its sovereign debt rat-

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

ing. Traders also cited speculation, denied by the Kremlin, that Prime Minister Vic-Chemomyrdin was ill.

'Recent interest-rate comments out of the Bundesbank an extension of tax rebates. have been dovish, suggesting that rates are on hold," said Bob Savage, chief currency trader at Lehman Brothers. "The rumors about trouble in the Kremlin also bolstered the dollar.'

6.1025 francs and to 1.4980 Swiss francs from 1.4830 the region's growth.

Bloomberg News francs. The pound rose to NEW YORK.—The dollar \$1.6305 from \$1.6295.

President Hans Tietmever of the Bundesbank said he expected European interest rates to remain "relatively low" ahead of the scheduled intro-

Traders took that as a sign that Germany's benchmark securities repurchase rate, now soon. Low German interest rates make mark-denominated ive to global investors.

The yen gained on hopes that Tokyo may take fresh steps to spur consumer demand, a move seen as essential to jump-starting the slowgrowing Japanese economy.

The Nihon Keizai newspaper reported Thursday that the governing Liberal Democratic Party was considering introducing more economic stimulus measures in March, including new public works and

"There are still some major problems with the Japanese economy, but it seems to be moving in the right di-rection," said Rob Hayward, an economic adviser at Bank of America in London.

In 4 P.M. trading, the dollar rose to 1.8315 DM from amid signs that Asian coun-1.8225 DM on Wednesday tries may be taking some but fell to 129.870 yen from steps needed to halt the eco-130.985 yen. Against other nomic crisis that has sent sevcurrencies, the dollar rose to eral countries' currencies and 1350 French francs from stock markets reeling, threatening to slam the brakes on

Microsoft and Judge Spar Over Order

WASHINGTON — Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson of U.S. District Court on Thursday challenged Microsoft Corp.'s claim that his December order instructed the company to offer a nonfunctional version of its Windows 95 operating system to computer makers.

Judge Jackson also rejected Microsoft's motion to remove the special adviser he appointed to give him counsel tried to prove in his testimony Wednesday that the gov-on deciding the Justice Department's claim that Microsoft ermnent has little understanding of the relationship between was illegally forcing computer makers to install its Web browser. The software company had argued that the special adviser, Lawrence Lessig, a law professor, was biased against Microsoft, appointed without proper consultation and extended power beyond the court.

Judge Jackson's actions came near the end of a two-day hearing on the Justice Department's bid to have Microsoft held in contempt of court for not giving computer makers a viable way to remove Internet Explorer from Windows 95. A senior Microsoft executive testified Wednesday that Bill Gates, the company's chairman, and other Microsoft

version of Windows 95 or continuing to give consumers the popular operating system with Microsoft's Internet browser

already included, despite a judge's prohibition.

Microsoft says Explorer and Windows 95 are inextricably linked and cannot be separated without breaking the system David Cole, a Microsoft vice president who oversaw the development of Windows 95 and Internet Explorer software,

tried to prove in his testimony Wednesday that the govits operating system and its Internet browser software. Mr. Cole said that Judge Jackson's order was broadly worded, leaving the company no choice but to suggest to

computer makers that they consider deleting computer files that are essential to both Windows 95 and Internet Explorer. Deleting these files, however, would wreck the software cessary to operate the computer.

Antitrust prosecutors have said, and Judge Jackson has suggested, that Microsoft could easily comply with the order to disable Internet Explorer by using a simple addand-remove utility on Windows 95 that would delete some executives came up with a plan to give computer makers a of Internet Explorer's files without disabling the operating (Bloomberg, NYT) choice between selling their equipment with a nonworking system.

AMEX

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close The 300 most traded stocks of the day, up to the closing on Wall Street.

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EUROPE

rough Wall Stree Executive At Telekom Is Dismissed Amid Disput terrane de **Amid Dispute** windy page t

the they BONN — Deutsche Telesche Said Thursday that Erik Jan Nederkoom, executive in change iternational activities, would leave ternational activities, would leave is the limit that the company at the end of the month.

The disputes between Mr. Nederkoom invest abroan alliance.

Deutsche Telekom gave no further details and did not say who would replace Mr. Nederkoorn, 54. and the company's chairman, Ron

A former chief executive at aircraft maker Fokker NV, Mr. Nederkoom was appointed to Nederkoom was appropriate in Telekom's management board in Telekon had created a board position charged with overseeing the company's international expansion.

internaling home But Global One, the international business communications venture with Sprint Corp. and France Teleand to suggest the same com SA, has not performed according to the company's expectations.

Faced with new domestic com-

and interned Emple ... wreck the some petitors since the opening of mar-kets this year, Telekom hopes in the future to earn 20 percent of its revcomply and enue abroad.

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- STORE MARKET DIE

The company had sales of 63 bil-. well the lion Dentsche marks (\$34.5 billion) month ipe det in 1996, but only a small share of that came from foreign holdings such as Global One's business or its stake in the Hungarian phone company, Matav.

German press reports have said Mr. Sommer was dissatisfied with Mr. Nederkoorn's performance and particularly disappointed with the results at Global One.

The decision to terminate Mr. Nederkoom's contract early was the latest example of Mr. Sommer's determination to whip his management team into shape as the company faces new competition, some analysts said.

Mr. Sommer has earned the reputation in the industry of being a tough chief executive, committed to transforming a former bloated state bureaucracy into a flagship technology company and unwilling to tolerate poor performance among his executives.

Lothar Hunsel, former head of the company's mobile communications catalog shopping unit earlier than division, was let go late last year planned as the British retailer tries to off Selfridges, its London department after its D1 cellular-phone business failed to overtake its main rival, the D2 network operated by Mannes-



Deutsche Bank's new investment-banking center in Frankfurt, where Hans Tietmeyer delivered his speech Thursday ruling out a deflation threat, is Germany's largest stock-trading complex.

Tietmeyer Dismisses Talk of Deflation Threat

President Hans Tietmeyer lashed out Thursday against talk of deflation scenarios and made clear

Bank AG's investment-banking failures as in other countries."

center, "it should — at least in FRANKFURT — Bundesbank Germany's case — be put back in resident Hans Tietmeyer lashed the drawer as quickly as it appeared." The central banker said there was no risk of "asset-price that he did not believe Germany bubbles" in Germany, especially was about to enter a deflationary as private households do not own nearly as much stock as their Amer-"However one interprets the 'D- ican counterparts. Also, he said, the Mr. Tietmeyer said in a German banking system had not speech at the opening of Deutsche been not "weakened by monetary

Criticizing the general debate about deflation, he said few people seemed to understand why the chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board. Alan Greenspan. spoke about deflation in a speech

span's speech as a signal that the U.S. central bank would not raise interest rates soon.

Analysts interpreted Mr. Green-

(Reuters, Bloomherg)

Daimler Reaches Accord on Part-Timers

FRANKFURT — Daimler-Benz AG said Thursday it had reached agreement with worker representatives on a plan to offer older employees part-time work, a move the troduced such programs to save on

company hopes will help cut costs. Under the agreement, eligible employees between 55 and 60 years old will work about half of their normal

also receive 4.5 months of gross fulltime pay upon retirement. Daimler is one of several German

companies, including Volkswagen AG and RWE AG, that have inearly retirement packages and increase workplace flexibility.

"A significant compromise has been forged between the necessity 35-hour week and receive 85 percent of making structural changes in the of their net full-time wage. They will company and fulfilling responsibil-

Sears to Shut Stores and Spin Off a Unit

LONDON — Sears PLC said Thursday it would close its European stores and spin off the Freemans

reverse five years of falling profit. Sears shares fell 1 penny to 51.5

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close or sell stores in Europe and an estimated £40 million charge to spin

store. After the disposal of Freemans, Sears will be left with its clothing pence (84 U.S. cents) after it said it chains, including Richards, Warewould take charges of £4 million to house, Wallis and Miss Selfridge.

off Freemans by the end of this

ities to the job market," said Heiner Tropitzsch, head of employment at Daimler. "Part-time work, as it is laid down in the law and in collective agreements, presents the opportunity for innovative and flexible negotiations.'

The part-time program applies only to Daimler's domestic work force in its carmaking divisions. It will be offered to about 1,500 workers this year, or 1 percent of the total staff. The company plans to start the first group of workers in the part-time program by midyear. Under German law, 5 percent of a company's work force can take part in such a program. Daimler said it would negotiate a yearly quota

within that limit with workers. Though Daimler's offer of 85 percent of net pay and benefits is higher than the 82 percent stipulated in a collective agreement for such programs, the company said switching workers to part time was still cheaper than offering early retire-

Airbus Puts Naming of CEO on Hold

Company to the Staff From Disputation

PARIS - The board of Europe's Airbus Industrie consortium postponed a decision Thursday on appointing a new chief executive widely expected to be Noel Forgeard of France — pending further negotiations, an Airbus spokesman said.

Mr. Forgeard, president of Matra Hautes Technologies, the space-de-fense branch of Lagardere SCA, was the sole candidate for the post, and his appointment had been expected at an Airbus board meeting Thursday at the headquarters of the con-sortium in Toulouse.

The spokesman said the board had discussed a proposal to appoint Mr. Forgeard, 51, but had made no decision so that it could have time for further talks.

"The appointment of an external candidate is new to Airbus Industrie, and a number of complex issues have to be considered," the spokesman said. "The terms and conditions of his appointment are ongoing and are expected to be concluded in the near future.

Mr. Forgeard's name was put forward by Aerospatiale, the French company that makes up 37.9 percent of Airbus.

The other partners are Daimler-Benz Aerospace AG of Germany, which also holds 37.9 percent, British Aerospace PLC, with 20 percent, and Construcciones Aeronauticas SA of Spain, with 4.2 percent. All four partners must agree on the appointment, but traditionally the company's man-

aging directors have been French.

If Mr. Forgeard takes the post, he would be set to become the company's first chairman after it becomes a fully independent commercial company, a change scheduled to take place by next year. The current chief executive, Jean Pierson, will retire at the end of March.

Previous Airbus chief executives have come from the public sector, including Mr. Pierson, who worked at state-owned Aerospatiale.

"It is surprising that the appointment has not been fully decided today," said Emmanuel Dubois Pelerin, an aerospace analyst at Standard & Poor's Corp. "It points to the difficulties that Airbus has in restructuring itself."

Mr. Forgeard played a key role in forming the Matra BAe Dynamics joint venture between Lagardere and British Aerospace to make Europe's biggest tactical-missiles concern. He has also been a proponent of a strong European space business through Lagardere's Matra Marconi Space venture with GEC itain (Reuters AFP)

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Very briefly:

 Schroders PLC will fire 220 employees in Asia and close most of its unprofitable Asian stockbroking business, making it the latest of several securities companies to cut staff as markets in the region continue to slide.

 BMW AG expressed determination to take over all of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd., saying it had no interest in buying only part of the company. BMW was responding to a bid from Volkswagen AG, which has said it was interested in buying Rolls-Royce's Bentley brand.

• U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley, on a visit to Prague to attend the West-East Conference of Ministers of Economy, Industry and Trade, said the United States was committed to resolving the Asian economic crisis and warned that other developing countries must take steps to avoid repeating the mistakes of the Asian nations.

· Samsung Electronics Iberia SA, the Spanish unit of Samsung Corp., postponed by at least one year plans to open a 5.4 billion peseta (\$34.9 million) household appliance factory near Barcelona because of the Asian economic crisis.

• GEC Alsthom, a French-British engineering company, said a South Korean government commission had asked for studies of the possibility of delaying delivery of \$1 billion of locomotives and railroad cars for a new high-speed rail link.

• Siemens AG's British unit predicted 15 percent to 20 percent growth in both sales and profit this year. Last year, the unit's sales rose 34.5 percent, to £2.02 billion (\$3.29 billion). and it had a net profit of more than £50 million.

• Airbus Industrie said it was pressing ahead with studies for a 550-seat plane, code-named A3XX, despite turmoil in Asia, where it expects the bulk of the orders for the aircraft.

• Havas SA's 1997 profit rose more than 35 percent, to 1.35 billion French francs (\$220.7 million), as France's largest media company benefited from gains on asset sales.

• Gold Fields of South Africa Ltd.'s second-quarter profit from its gold mines fell 45 percent, to 101.3 million rand (\$20.5 million), as the steady decline in gold prices hurt the company's least profitable mines.

• The International Monetary Fund has decided to postpone a mission to Romania scheduled for next week to review the government's reform program until the country's political turmoil is resolved.

Thursday, Jan. 15 Prices in local currencies.

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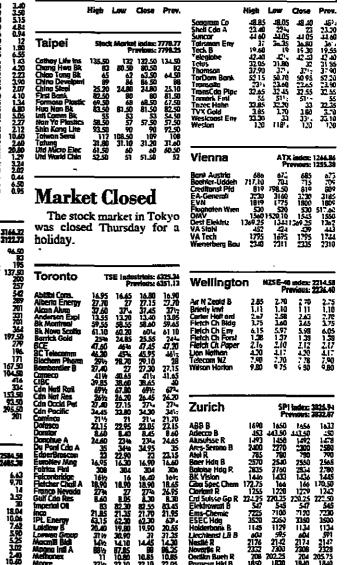
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World Index	167.16	- 0.38	— 0.23	— 2.88
Regional Indexes				
Asia/Pacific	90.46	— 0.32	— 0.35	 5.84
Europe	187.20	— 0.21	— 0.11	— 3.03
N. Amenca	215.46	- 0.22	0.10	- 0.25
S. Amenca	132.52	— 2.52	— 1.87	— 13.20
ndustriel indexes				
Capital goods	207.15	+ 0.89	+ 0.43	+ 0.28
Consumer goods	206.86	— 0.64	— 0.31	— 1.37
Energy	185.67	+ 0.83	+ 0.45	-4.77
Finance	117.07	— 0.57	— 0.48	— 4.79
Miscellaneous	132.53	2.41	1.79	— 11.58
Raw Materials	156.76	— 1.88	— 1.19	— 6. 2 7
Service	170.60	— 0.49	— 0.29	-213
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NYSE

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close The 2.600 most traded stocks of the day. ices not reflecting late trad-

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Developer's Plunge Hits Hong Kong Stocks

HONG KONG - Sino Land Co.'s shares plunged 46 percent Thursday on speculation that the property developer was on the brink of bankruptcy, and the drop helped pull the benchmark Hang

Seng index down 7.02 percent. Chairman Robert Ng blamed "malicious rumors" for the selloff that sent Sino Land's stock down 1.60 Hong Kong dollars to close at a five-year low of 1.90 dollars (24.5 U.S. cents).

"I really don't know where these rumors are coming from," Mr. Ng said. "It's quite a concerted action not only against the company, but the market. We have

Tung Forecasts Growth

But Says Crisis Persists

HONG KONG — Chief Executive Tung

Chee-hwa said Thursday that the regional eco-nomic "storm has not blown over" and that

But Mr. Tung also predicted that the Hong

In an address to the provisional Legislative

Kong economy would grow 4 percent despite

Conneil, Mr. Tung said Hong Kong's economic fundamentals remained sound, with massive

fiscal reserves and prudent fiscal policies. "We

have no reason to believe that Hong Kong will

only strengthened his government's resolve to

defend the Hong Kong dollar's link to the U.S.

dollar. The consequences would be "unima-

ginable," he said, if the link to the U.S. dollar

To maintain the Hong Kong dollar's value, financial officials have had to raise interest

rates, hurting Hong Kong's stock market and

Hong Kong must be "constantly on alert."

He said the company had loans they were a year ago," said Andrew extending over a four-year period Taylor of Paribas Asia Equity. "But

Asia's financial crisis.

meeting any of those payments. They're not due tomorrow; it's

over a period of time," Mr. Ng said. "We have no problems with that." Hong Kong property prices have fallen recently, and Sino Land is not the first company to fall victim to rumors of difficulty in meeting

debt payments. Midland Realty Ltd., the only publicly traded property agent here, denied Wednesday that it was in trouble after closing 20 of its 200 offices, First Pacific Co., its stock reeling, issued a statement last week

to say it was financially sound. Analysts said the companies were probably healthy. They are not as cash-rich as

and that it would have no problems in terms of the companies default- Hamburg that the situation in Hong ing, there is very little chance." But investors have been shaken

since Peregrine Investment Holdings Ltd., Hong Kong's biggest homegrown investment bank, filed for liquidation this week.

Frederick Tsang, head of research at BNP-PrimeEast Securities (HK) Ltd., said, "Investors are very nervous despite Sino Land's denial, and this is a kind of post-Peregrine jitters.'

The Hang Seng index finished at 8,578.98, down 647.57 points. Dealers also said comments by the international financier George Soros, who said the regional economic crisis might have further ramifications for Hong Kong and China, also had hurt sentiment. Mr. Soros said Wednesday in

Kong and China was "extremely DECATIONS

Patrick Ho, sales director at Seapower Securities, said the market had largely underestimated the probable impact of the regional financial crisis on domestic corpo-

"Some Hong Kong corporates are highly leveraged," he said. "The risk of defaults is a real one, particularly since we believe the high-interest-rate environment is likely to persist in the medium

But Franklin Lam, director of regional property research at SBC Warburg Dillon Read, said developers in general did not have cash-flow problems.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)



(AFX, AP) A Hong Kong stock trader yawning after the close of another busy session Thursday.

BANK: A Quiet Effort Is Under Way to Help Asians Hit Hardest by the Turmoil

Continued from Page 1

were not firmly maintained.

property sector.

The social programs are part of

While the Fund's mandate is to preserve global financial and cur- nity. rency stability, and to help countries World Bank tends to focus on the nomic growth and reducing poverty in developing countries.

unprecedented crisis such as the one Bank in order to help construction we are facing in East Asia it is very natural that a lot of the attention is focused on currencies, bank failures and stock markets," Mr. Shirazi

bank is to deal with the social aspects of the crisis."

Mr. Shirazi said that about \$500 million of new loans would be made available in Indonesia and \$300 million in Thailand this year.

The World Bank programs now being planned or enlarged upon in-

the overall mission of the World job-creating activities such as road- that the World Bank was also plan- ging many banks and financial Bank, which is a sister organization of the International Monetary scale water supply and waste treatFund.

work, drainage repairs, and smallning to provide assistance to poor companies.

Indonesians who may not be able to ment projects. These loans can be as afford staple foods because of price york Times report Wedensday that small as \$50,000 per rural commu- increases. It will also try to aid mi-

Also in Indonesia, increased fiin times of financial crisis by nancing is being planned to pay for designing reform programs, the medicines at a time when the devaluation of the Indonesian rupiah longer-term goals of promoting eco- has caused the price of imported riving in Bangkok and Jakarta to caused some issues with which the drugs to skyrocket.

In Thailand, financial resources to make public spending cuts that do not worsen the condition of the poor workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the cancellation of big and prestigous infrastructure projects.

Also in Thailand, work is going forward on the creation of a Social "But the main challenge of the Investment Fund that will offer new opportunities for laid-off workers who are returning from urban centers to their villages in the countryside. .
"The most obvious consequence

of the crisis in East Asia is unemployment," said Katherine Marshall, a senior World Bank official. to its work on helping to maintain a An estimated 2.4 million Indone-Public works programs in rural sians have already lost their jobs, Bank officials were advising In-

Indonesian communities that at a and Ms. Marshall said millions more donesia and Thailand on restructime of mounting unemployment could be at risk. But beyond belong turing their banking systems, a task will provide small loans for fund the newly unemployed, she noted that also calls for closing and merthat also calls for closing and mer-

a confidential IMF report on Ingrant workers who may be repat- donesia acknowledged that the Fund riated as a result of the economic may have helped to trigger a bank slump.

may have helped to trigger a bank panic in November by requiring Teams of World Bank staffers Jakarta to close 16 insolvent banks, and consultants are meanwhile ar- Mr. Shirazi conceded that "yes, that advise government officials on how government is now grappling."

He stressed, however, that "any panic" and added that "these coun- its "influx of foreign funds." tries, we should remember, generally do not have a deposit insurance

sia's remaining 220 banks, would face "precisely the challenge of what actions need to be taken in order to ensure that we don't undermine the confidence of depositors and yet still seriously deal with social safety net in East Asia, World the nonperforming loan portfoli-

China Gives U.S. Official A Pledge: No Devaluation

By Steven Mufson Washington Post Service

BELIING -- The U.S. deputy Treasury secretary, Lawrence Summers, said he received an "unequivocal commitment" in meetings here Thursday with top economic policymakers that China would not devalue its currency despite competitive pressures from around Asia.

Emerging from a meeting with China's central bank governor, Dai Xianglong, Mr. Summers said China's pledge to keep its exchange rate steady was "the most important contribution that China could make to stability in Asia."

Mr. Summers also met with Deputy Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, China's most important economic policymaker, who, in an effort to dampen speculation and calm markets, reiterated for the third day in a row his commitment to defend the Chinese currency.

Many analysis and traders have feared that China might devalue its currency, the yuan, to hang onto markets and prevent its exports from being undercut by products from other Asian countries whose plunging currencies have reduced their costs. A devaluation would also make it more attractive to foreigners to invest in China, which draws more than half its foreign investment from elsewhere in Asia.

But a drop in the value of China's currency would deal a devastating blow to efforts to stabilize markets and economies around the region by putting pressure on other currencies and perhaps sparking a series of competitive devaluations as countries vied to maintain an edge for their exports. A devaluation by China would also damage confidence in the Hong Kong dollar and undermine the Hong Kong government's efforts to defend its exchange rate, which is pegged to the U.S. dollar.

The Chinese reiterated their unequivocal commitment not to devalue," Mr. Summers said. He added that "we agreed that the performance of our economies along with the performance of the Japanese economy were profoundly important to the situation in Asia.'

Chinese newspapers carried reports Thursday quoting Mr. Zhu as having told a meeting of bankers Tuesday that China would defend its currency. According to the reports in state-run newspapers, he acknowledged that the devaluations of Southtem no matter what action you take it several months could pose "severe is going to cause some degree of challenges" to China's exports and

But he said China would meet those challenges, maintain exports ystem." and keep its economy growing at Monetheless, Mr. Shirazi said that more than 8 percent this year. That the World Bank, in working with the rate is lower than government fore-IMF on how to restructure Indone- casts made just a couple of months ago, but it is still higher than the rate

forecast by many analysts. Mr. Summers said Chinese leaders also had agreed that the International Monetary Fund would continue to take the lead in providing assistance to troubled countries in

Investor's Asia Hong Kong Hang Seng Singapore Straits Times Tokyo Nikkei 225 بر 17000 20000 15000 1750 18500 13000 11000 15500 9000 14000 S C N D J 1997 1998 Exchange Change Ciose 9,226.55 Hong Kong Haing Sang 1,243.27 Singapore Straits Times 2,584.50 2,605.90 All Ordinaries 15,121.98 Tokyo Kuala Lumpur Composite 536.68 Bangkok SET 475.13 +6.49 505.98 Composite index Stock Market Index 7,770.77 7,798.25 1,706.85 1,686.22 +1.22 Martin PSE 403.98 387.24 Composite Index 2,214.58 2,235.40 -0.98 NZSE-40

Very briefly:

 Boeing Co. said Hyundai Space & Aircraft Co. and Korean Air would be among 14 major supplier-partners on its 717-200 production program. The two South Korean companies expect a total of 1,300 new jobs to accompany the program to build the 100-seat short-haul jets.

3,365,75 3,400,79 -1.03

• Bangkok Metropolitan Bank PCL, Siam City Bank PCL and Bangkok Bank of Commerce PCL proposed a three-way merger to avoid being taken over by the government and to become "more attractive" to foreign investors, the Krungthep Thurakij Daily reported, quoting an unidentified executive of Siam City.

 Softbank Corp., the Japanese publisher and software wholesaler, will meet with tepid demand when it lists on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange on Friday, analysts said, because of the uncertainty surrounding its three unlisted U.S. affiliates: Kingston Technology Co., Ziff-Davis Publishing Co. and Comdex.

• Air France will move its Asia-Pacific headquarters to Bangkok from Hong Kong on July 1 in a move that is expected to save \$750,000 a year. The airline is aiming to increase its capacity in the region by 40 percent in three



International Income Fund

Long Term Units - USD Portfolio

EBC Fund Managers (Jersey) Limited as Manager of the above-mentioned Fund has declared the following dividend per Unit for the financial period ended 31st December, 1997, payable on the 30th January, 1998, in respect of Units in 31st December, 1997.

Long Term Units - USD Portfolio USD2.00 per Unit - payable against Coupon No. 37

Unit holders should send their Coupons to the Manager at EBC House, 1-3 Scale Street, St. Helier, Jersey, JE4 8XL, Channel Islands or to one of the following Paying Agents:-

Bankers Trust Company, 280 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A

Banque Générale du Luxembourg (Suisse) S.A., Rennweg 57, 8023 Zurich, Switzerland

Banque Générale du Luxembourg SA., 50 Avenue J.F. Kennedy, L-2951 Luxembourg.

Arrangements have been made whereby holders of all Long Term Units - USD Portfolio in issue at 30th January, 1998 may reinvest the dividend paid at that date in additional units at a purchase price equal to the Basic Net Asset Value per Unit at 30th January, 1998 (as an indication, the Basic Net Asset Value per Unit was USD32.41 on 5th January, 1998). This right will be terminated at the close of business on 27th February, 1998. Long Term Unit holders who desire to reinvest their dividend should advise the Manager accordingly when presenting their Coupons for payment,

> **EBC Fund Managers (Jersey) Limited** Manager Dated: 16th January, 1998



International Income Fund

Long Term Units - Deutschemark Portfolio EBC Fund Managers (Jersey) Limited as Manager of the above nentioned Fund has declared the following dividend per Unit for the financial period ended 31st December, 1997, payable on the 30th January, 1998, in respect of Units in issue on

Long Term Units - Deutschemark Portfolio DM 6.00 per Unit - payable against Coopon No. 4 Unit holders should send their Coupons to the Manager at EBC House, 1-3 Scale Street, St. Helier, Jersey, JE4 8XL, Channel

Islands or to one of the following Paying Agents:-Banque Générale du Luxembourg (Suisse) S.A., Rennweg 57, 8023 Zurich, Switzerland

Banque Générale du Luxembourg SA., 50 Avenue J.F. Kennedy, L-2951 Luxembourg.

Attangements have been made whereby holders of all Long Term Units - DM Portfolio in issue at 30th January, 1998 may reinvest the dividend paid at that date in additional units at a purchase price equal to the Basic Net Asset Value per Unit at 30th January, 1998 (as an indication, the Basic Net Asset Value per Unit was DM 110.62 on 5th January, 1998). This right will be terminated at the close of business on 27th February, 1998. Long Term Unit holders who desire to reinvest their dividend should advise the Manager accordingly when presenting their Coupons for payment

> EBC Fund Managers (Jersev) Limited Manager

> > Dated: 16th January, 1998

DOLLAR: Currency Shines as Haven From Asian Crisis

Continued from Page 1

might like to see the dollar weaken investors around the world fled from it, causing it to fall 5 percent in the ensuing three months.

was gold, as they had for centuries. But that's not true now. Gold prices today are at their lowest levels in 17 years after having declined 25 percent over the past year. The dollar's special place in the

world economy allows the United States to have slightly lower interest rates and pay less for imported goods than it would have otherwise, economists say. Most significantly, it allows the United States to run large trade deficits for long periods without suffering many of the unpleasant side effects that other countries would face.

amounts to an interest-free loan from the rest of the world of between \$5 billion and \$10 billion a year.

The resurgence of the dollar has some drawbacks, however. Economists warn that having the dollar do can exaggerate the normal ups and the stage for a sharp reversal in a year the rest of the European Union, over the major European currencies. layoffs were really necessary.

and so, rather than flee to the dollar, complicating the Fed's task of managing interest rates, the money supply and the pace of economic activity.

In the recent Asia crisis, for ex-One place investors fled to then ample, foreigners who have bought dollars and needed a place to invest them have taken temporary refuge in the U.S. bond market. This sudden surge in demand for U.S. Treasury notes and bonds has caused short-term interest rates to drop below the target that Fed policymakers have set for overnight interbank and increase advertising budgets. loans. If the situation continues, many analysts say, a reluctant Fed may be forced to lower its target to reflect market realities.

The dollar's strength has also thrust the United States into the role as the world's consumer of last resort when economies in Japan and double digits to try to wring inflation In addition, the Federal Reserve Europe are mired in slow growth.

Morris Goldstein, a senior fellow has calculated that the fact that more than half of all dollars in circulation at the Institute for International Econow are in use outside U.S. borders nomics, says that by making imports lend money in the United States. cheaper and exports more expensive. the recent run-up in the value of the toy with the idea that maybe the yen, dollar is almost certain to drive up the the mark or the Swiss franc should U.S. trade deficit - from \$180 bil- begin to supplant the dollar as the lion last year to as high as \$300 billion world's international currency. in 1998. If history is any guide, Mr. Goldstein says, such a deficit will set the challenge - not alone, but with

downs of the U.S. economy. In the or two when Asian markets stabilize short run, it may involve some loss of economic growth revives in Europe American control over the economy, and global investors decide it is safe to return to their own currencies.

and unemployed.
"In a nutshell, social spending on

basic education and health needs to

be protected, but wasteful capital

projects can be postpoined," Mr. Shirazi said.

governments by examining the pub-

lic-spending porgams and pointing

out how economies can be made and

efficiencies introduced while at the

same time delivering social services

Mr. Shirazi noted that in addition

to the poorest."

'So part of our job is to work with

That kind of volatility can translate into economic dislocation as jobs and profits are shifted from one sector of the economy to another as a result. Auto analysts, for example, cal-

culate that the change in the dollaryen rate over just the past year already has translated into a \$5,000per-car windfall for Japanese car companies exporting to the U.S. mar-ket that can be used to lower prices Sharp swings in the dollar have

been a feature of the currency markets ever since President Richard Nixon unhooked the dollar from the gold standard in the early 1970s. In the late 1970s and early '80s, the Fed drove interest rates into out of the economy. The rates were

so high that banks and investors from around the world rushed to It was then that people began to

Only the Germans have taken up

Japan Bank Panel To Meet Friday

TOKYO — In a quiet revolution, the Bank of Japan will hold the first meeting of its new policy board on Friday — an advance taste of the new autonomy conferred on it by Parliament last year. The board will have sole au-

thority to determine monetary policy by fixing interest rates, managing the money market and setting bank reserve requirements, among other measures. With Japan's economy slug-

gish and its discount rate at 0.5 percent, however, analysts say the panel has little room to act on interest rates. The reforms conferring autonomy take effect April 1, but the bank decided to begin the panel's meetings early.

which plans to launch a common currency, the euro, next year. Until then, however, the considerable uncertainties surrounding the euro effort - such as which countries will participate and whether they will be able to get their interest rates and economic policies sufficiently

aligned to pull it off — has put a cloud

KOREA: Layoffs Resisted

Continued from Page 11

600,000 members include most of the workers at South Korean motor vehicle companies and other heavy industrial plants. "The National Assembly will not talk about a law on financial institutions." Instead, said labor officials, they

hoped the tripartite committee consisting of leaders of the two union federations, two members of top management of the conglomerates known as chaebol, two top government officials and four representatives of political parties - would come up with a formula by which big business would accept responsibility for South Korea's economic crisis and promise to make amends.

"We strongly demand the government make the labor law strict." Mr. Ahn said, "Companies must not try to use the labor law to lay off

At the top of demands by the Federation of Korean Trade Unions, he said, was that the companies agree to sell off assets and stocks, reorganize and trim their managerial offices and then, if they were still forced to go into bankruptcy, "consult with the trade unions" to see if

ASHLEY: Retailer Predicts Loss After Weak Christmas Sales

Continued from Page 11

Over Christmas, the company had a 4 percent drop in overall sales, excluding new space, and in North America sales dropped by 13 percent.

Ms. Iverson, who left in November, had tried to reverse the company's falling profit by expanding rapidly in the United States in the last two years. The plan exposed flaws in distribution and management systems and caused problems of excess stock that the company then had to discount to clear.

The company will begin a review of its U.S. operations under Michael Appel.

appointed Thursday as interim chief ex- taking more radical steps than in the ecutive of the U.S. unit, and may con- past. "We're taking fundamental strasider either the closure of at least 24 of its tegic decisions now, and today's an-148 North American stores or their re-nouncement is one of them, and we'll placement by a franchise system, a person familiar with the situation said

recovery plan, which would be com- had a new £70 million credit line that pleted by the end of April. Every area of business is receiving attention, but North America is the one and taffeta ball gowns, has struggled to that really needs to be dealt with." Mr.

Mr. Cox said that turning around the

long process, but that the company was the shares.

continue to do so," he said. He said that the company's bankers Mr. Cox said Mr. Appel would draft a remained supportive and that the group

runs until April 1999. The retailer, known for its floral prints update its image without alienating its customers who still hew to that style. Sir Bernard Ashley, husband of the group's trading performance would be a late Laura, still holds about 35 percent of

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

Rabobank Nederland NLG 500,000,000 5.625% Bonds 1998 due 2010 January 1998

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Champions Fall

SKATING Evgeni Platov and Pasha Grishuk surrendered their lead in the ice dance competition at the European Championships on Thursday after Platov fell.

The Olympic, world and European champions, who are chasing a 21st successive victory, were penalized for his fall during the original dance section. Fellow Russians Anjelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov took the lead.

The favorites dropped to second place ahead of a French couple, Marina Anisina and Gwendal Peizerat. One of these three couples will take the gold after the free dance final Friday night. (Reuters)



Grishuk grabbing Evgeni Platov after his fall.

Tar Heels Tumble

COLLEGE BASKETBALL The University of Carolina, ranked No.1, lost for the first time this season, 89-83, in overtime at Maryland. The Terrapins (10-5, 3-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) out rebounded the Tar Heels (17-1, 4-1 ACC), 39-32. It was the first defeat for Bill Guthridge as head coach of the Tar Heels...

No. 2 Duke. (15-1, 5-0 ACC) won, 88-52, at Wake Forest. It was the Wake Forest's worst home loss in 31 years.

Café Owners Protest to EU

FORMULA ONE Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, is to investigate a complaint over the International Automobile Federation's threat to cancel the Belgian Grand Prix.

The complaint was filed by an association for the "Defense of consumers of the GP Spa-Francorchamps," a group of about 60 F1 enthusiasts which includes café and restaurant owners near the

Their lawyer is Jean-Louis Dupont who successfully represented Jean-Marc Bosman, a Belgian soccer player, against soccer authorities in the European Court. Dupont said the FIA had violated the Treaty of Rome. (Reuters)

Strang Stops Sri Lanka

CRICKET Paul Strang, a Zimbabwean spin bowler, captured four Sri Lankan wickets Thursday on the second day of the second test in Colombo. Sri Lanka was bowled out for 225 in its first innings. Zimbabwe reached 24 for one in its second innings to lead by 50 at the (Reuters)

WORLD ROUNDUP Back Home in Indiana, Harlem's Team Is a Hit

Globetrotters Wow 'Em in 20,000th Game

By Bill Plaschke

Las Angeles Times Service EMINGTON, Indiana - The string of white lights snakes through fog-shrouded comfields, a traffic jam five farms long, heading toward a bright marquee in the middle of nowhere advertising three basketball

Tri-County Middle-Senior High

School Jan. 5 Winomac

Jan. 9 Rossville Jan. 12 Harlem Globetrotters. Trucks and vans and solid blue Chevrolets, driven by careful men in baseball

caps, filled with women wrapping their babies, edge into the lot. A wet kid with a flashlight takes their two bucks for parking.
Smiling folks in flannel take their the own on this

tickets. They duck into the gym on this cold January night to unwittingly par-take of one of the last perfect marriages in sports.
The Globetrotters, basketball's orig-

inal barnstorming entertainers, are playing in the franchise's 20,000th game. In a town with no stoplights. Ninety minutes before tipoff, the 3,300-seat gym is full.

"Is this the biggest thing we've ever had around here?" asks Joe Broussard, who works in waste removal in nearby Monticello. "At least since 'Hoo-siers,' " says his wife Sharon, referring to a movie about basketball madness in

Sixty minutes before tipoff, a logger. Lewis Hites, shakes his head. "This is the biggest thing around here since that '74 tornado,' he said. "And that killed three people."

Thirty minutes before tipoff, the public-address announcer exhorts everyone: "Take your seats and don't be moving around no more. It will look bad for television. Twenty minutes before tipoff, they play it. A song from your childhood that

you can't quite place but can never forget. A song that comes to mind whenever you see someone twirling a basketball or dribbling between their legs. A song played in the phone system of the team's corporate headquarters in

Phoenix; making it a pleasure to be put on hold. A song so powerful, the crowd gives it a standing ovation. Old ladies sway. Toddlers swing rhythmically in parents' arms. Sno-

Cones are dropped and popcorn is spilled as everyone claps and stomps and waits When the Globetrotters waltz onto

heartland, Georgia Brown has never been so Sweet.

"Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods may own Madison Avenue," said the team's owner, Mannie Jackson, eyes red. "But we still have Main Street." Not everybody in the neighboring northwest Indiana towns of Remington (population 1,200) and Wolcott (pop-

"You got tickets?" asks Emma Hinkle, 71, sitting in Clark and Kathie's Country Inn in Wolcott. "I seen them a long time ago, would love to see them again, but went down to the grocery

ulation darn near the same) was at the

store and couldn't get tickets." Up on a TV above the bar, a local newscast appears with a Globetrotter and a basketball. A dozen men stop talking and look up from their drinks.
"There, that's it, that twirling thing!"
Hinkle says, almost shouting. "Now

that's what I like!" The Globetrotters didn't plan to play their historic game in this place. Indeed, among all the acrobatics that have occurred in the franchise's 71-year history, nothing has jumped around more than the schedule. The team originally thought the game was going to be played in December at its training camp at Disneyland, in California. Only when some games were canceled there did

they realize it would be here.

Some club officials immediately asked that it be moved to some place a little more appropriate, say. Madison Square Garden.

'From a marketing aspect, we would have loved to see what would have happened in a bigger arena," said the club's marketing director, Ray David-son. But Jackson, being a former Globe-trotter, understood that this was about more than simply money and exposure.

The tiny high school, which had cut a

deal for this game nine months before, was like the place in Hinckley, Illinois, where Abe Saperstein's original Harlem Globetrotters began touring in 1927. "This was what brought us to the dance, they were our people," Jackson said. "This was where we belonged."

While his decision was not essential to filling the gym—all tickets at \$7 and \$12 were sold in two weeks last month — it did mean a slight change in the background: For the first time in this area's history, a local event was broad-cast live on U.S. national television.

It was, amazingly, the first time in Globetrotter history that a game was televised live. None of those facts was deemed pertinent, however, when Jackson gave his

pregame speech. "I told my players to remember that this was about saying 'Thank you.' 'he said. 'Thank you to the people who built us.'' They say that a lot during a four-

month period from December to April, when two Globetrotter teams play 100 games each in United States and Canada, at least 20 percent of them in

By the time their two-hour show was over, they had pushed a child with cerebral palsy to center court and spun a basketball on her crooked finger to a standing ovation. They had kissed a biology teacher and danced with her at the foul line. They had cheered 12-year-old Adam Kurtz, who almost never makes foul shots for his Remington gradeschool team, as he sank a foul shot.

"This is what America is supposed to be about," said Bob Kurtz, Adam's father, who works at a local radio station. "You see so many greedy athletes out there, and then you see these guys who will do anything to make you smile. Who would have thought they'd come here for this? Who would have thought?"

By the time the show was over, the Globetrotters had uncovered as many memories as smiles. They harassed an exasperated referee. They ran a dozen weaves with two dozen dunks around a New York Nationals team featuring this hardwood floor in the American small guys with bad haircuts. And, oh yes, they stuck a ball under the shirt of

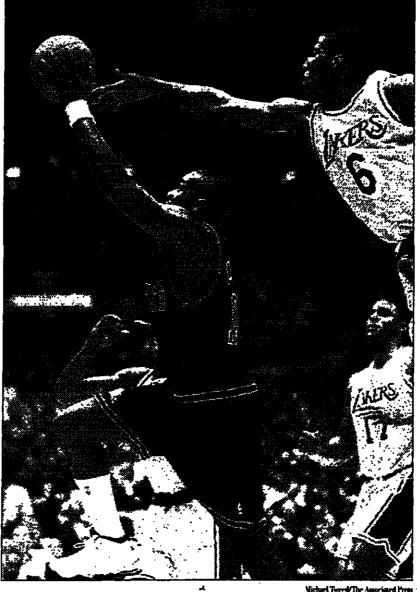
THE PLAYERS are better athletes now. The Globetrotters have the world's two record-holding vertical leapers as well as a 7-foot, 6-inch (2.3-meter) center from Sudan and former college starters from Memphis,

of the Globetrotters have tattoos. But some things will never change. Thank goodness, they still brought out a bucket of water. And yes, they threw it at the crowd. And yes, it was only confetti.

Afterward, a middle-aged woman dropped the hands of her two children, walked up to Jackson and hugged him. Just hugged him. She didn't say why. He didn't ask.

Said a Globetrotters' forward, Matt Jackson: "The thing about playing for the Globetrotters is that you look in the eyes of the crowd, and every night you see Christmas.'

The game improved the Harlem Globetrotters' record in their first 20,000 games to 19,668 wins and 332 losses. Outside in the icy rain, Main Street laughed and hugged as it walked to its trucks and vans and solid blue



Denver's Danny Fortson driving for a dunk as L.A.'s Eddie Jones leaps in.

With 18th Straight Loss, Nuggets Near a Record

The Denver Nuggets are building a strong case that they are the worst team in NBA history.

The Nuggets played the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night and were

NBA ROUNDUP up to their usual tricks, falling behind by

an insurmountable margin early and then walking off the court badly beaten. The 132-114 loss was Denver's 33d in 35 games this season and its 18th in a row. The countdown has begun toward the night — Jan. 27 — when the Nuggets could break the NBA record of 24 con-

same old speech, "said Bill Hanzlik, the Denver coach. "We lost a couple of our key veterans, and because we're so young, it makes it tough. I feel like we can turn this franchise around. It's not easy, but I'm generally just a positive

The music is no longer only old jazz but also rap. And for the first time, some of the Globerotters have series and ratisburgh.

The Nuggets will play Cleveland and Portland before traveling to Vancouver on Tuesday for one game that the contract of the Globerotters have series and ratisburgh.

After that, the opponents are Detroit, Phoenix and the Los Angeles Clippers before the New Jersey Nets come into McNichols Arena for what could be

held by the Cleveland Cavaliers, who dropped the last 19 games of the 1981-82 season and the first five of the 1982-83 campaign. Shaquille O'Neal scored 34 points in

the game Wednesday, becoming the first Laker in more than 11 years to surpass 30 points in four straight games.

Tim Duncan had 28 points and 16 rebounds and David Robinson added 20 points and 14 rebounds as San Antonio scored 11 of the final 13 points to overcome an otherwise lackluster effort.

Tariq Abdul-Wahad had 13 of his career-high 20 points in the fourth quarter as the Kings rallied to beat Orlando. Abdul-Wahad, a first-round pick Nets.

from San Jose State, brought the Kings back from an 84-78 deficit early in the fourth quarter. He ignited an 11-2 run by scoring nine points as Sacramento took an 89-86 lead with 3:52 remaining.

Pacers 100, Pistons 93 In Indiana-polis, Reggie Miller scored 25 points and hit a key 3-pointer with 26 seconds left. Mark Jackson had 16 points and 11 assists. Indiana overcame a season-high 37 points by Grant Hill, who matched his career-high with 15 field goals.

Hawks 108, Mavericks 82 In Atlanta. Steve Smith scored 29 points and Dikembe Mutombo added 21 points and 19 rebounds as the Hawks won their fifth straight.

Bucks 101, Warriors 95 Glenn Robinson scored 12 of his 31 points in the final period as the host Bucks won their third straight. The Warriors lost their eighth consecutive game.

Raptors 109, Clippers 101 In Toronto, Damon Stoudamire tied his career high with 36 points and received a standing ovation with a minute to play after icing the Raptors' victory with a pair of 3point shots in the final four minutes.

■ Nets' Douglas Accused by a Fan

The NBA is investigating a complaint by a spectator that he was struck in the face by a New Jersey Nets guard, Sherman Douglas, during a game against the Toronto Raptors, The Associated Press reported from Toronto.

Lawyers for Nav Bhatia, a local car dealer who has a season seat behind one of the baskets, told aides to the NBA's commissioner, David Stern, and representatives of the Raptors and the Nets that he was considering court action against Douglas.

In a game Monday night, Douglas was called for charging and lost control of the ball during the fourth quarter of New Jersey's 108-100 victory over

Toronto. Bhatia retrieved the ball after it bounced out of bounds, and Douglas approached the businessman near his seat. Bhatia said the player then struck

him on the nose and forehead. The incident involving Bhatia and Douglas was captured on videotape and was being reviewed by the NBA and the Blessings in Wake of TV Bonanza By Bill Pennington New York Times Service

NFL Counts

The National Football League's new eight-year, \$17.6 billion deal with three television networks had the pro fauthall community counting its blessings and adding up its dollars.

Owners' franchises just got more valu-

able. Players can expect escalating salaries. Fans might even find ticket price increases delayed by a year or two.

The effects of an estimated per-team payout of \$74 million annually should be felt on several levels. "Players' salaries will explode,"

said Leigh Steinberg, an agent for many of the league's biggest stars. "Where we have Steve Young currently making \$7.5 million, in a couple of years, he's a \$10 million quarterback.

Steinberg said he had talked to Ryan Leaf, the Washington State quarterback who has declared himself eligible for

this spring's NFL draft.
"I told him he was born at the right time," Steinberg said. "I said: You may have missed the '60s, but the '90s

are going to be awfully good, too.

The league's salary cap, which was
\$41.5 million last season, should jump by \$8 million to \$10 million next season. An increase to \$70 million by the 1999 season is likely and a \$100 million

salary cap by 2001 is conceivable. While the exact salary cap has not been agreed, the feeling is that the players, because of their collective-bargaining agreement with the owners, will be assured a large portion of the new in-come since every team aimost always spends to its salary-cap limit.

"But there's always the danger of the disparity in salary levels amongst the players growing." said Ernie Accorsi, the New York Giants' new general manager. "If you have the players at certain positions earning a disproportionate amount of the cap and other players earning much less, that's a dividing factor on a team. On paper, it should help keep teams together, but there's always a concern.'

Wellington Mara, co-owner of the Gi-ants, said: "Certain teams with large cash reserves who have already spent a lot on free agents by prorating bonuses — each over the cap — I worry that they could distance themselves even further. That's a threat to competitive balance.

Steinberg disagreed. "I think it will have an opposite effect," he said. 'Since revenue is equal, a team like Cincinnati has so much available cash now. I argue that this contract will have a leveling effect. And as the cap expands, it will less often be the reason for breaking up happy marriages."

Free agent players who want to stay with their teams can," he added. That's what happens when you double the dollars coming in."

There have been other consequences of the new TV deal already. One NFL team, according to a league executive, withdrew its plans for a ticket-price increase last month when it learned of the stunning, potential windfall the new TV contract might yield. And the league's owners, anticipating

the public relations impact of the TV deal, have already discussed how hard it will now be to ask a municipality for help in financing a new stadium proj-

As one owner said Wednesday: "If you ask a city to float a bond for you, "Those guys are loaded." people will say: 'Those guys are loaded. They've got to be kidding.' '
Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas Cow-

boys, who paid \$150 million for the team and the lease to Texas Stadium in 1989, said: "A lot of owners have debt. The money that doesn't go to the players can make the team sounder, reduce debt and create stability. We owe it to the networks to be financially sound."

Greg Aiello, the NFL's vice president of public relations, offered the league's attitude toward its fans. "Fans aren't interested," he said. "They want to know who's playing where and on what

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SIMONE BIRCHILL ...

secutive losses. "It's not fun — it's the same old story.

consecutive loss No. 25. The record of 24 straight defeats is

Spurs 89, Wizards 79 In Washington

Kings 108, Magic 96 In Sacramento, Mitch Richmond scored 23 points and

Islanders, Following Orders, Finally Win

New York Islanders coach Rick Bowness was placed on the hot seat last league-high 27th game. weekend when his general manager, Mike Milbury, gave the ultimatum: Win, or else.

On Wednesday night, the Islanders had one of their best games of the season, a 7-1 rout of the Tampa Bay Lightning that snapped an 11-game winless streak (0-10-1) and may have saved the

coach's jöb. Zigmund Palffy and Robert Reichel scored two goals apiece, and Wade Flaherty stopped 21 shots for the visiting

organization members" a "peaceful and relaxing All-Star break." While Bowness's status is still shaky, Milbury seems to have softened his stance a bit.

Blackhawks 4, Hurricanes 1 Chicago won its fifth straight road game, getting a goal and two assists from Gary Suter. Devils 4, Rangers 1 Bob Carpenter and Bobby Holik scored in a span of 1:31 in the first period, and New Jersey sent the visiting New York rookie goalie Hasek made 36 saves to lead Buffalo to

Dan Cloutier to the bench. Devils goalie Martin Brodeur won his

Red Wings 4, Canucks 0 Chris Osgood stopped 26 shots for his second straight shutout as Detroit took a five-game unbeaten streak into the All-Star break. The Red Wings now have shut out three straight home opponents for the

NHL RODNDUP first time in Joe Louis Arena history. The last time it happened in Detroit was

Boston goalie Byron Dafoe has not

1955 in Olympia Stadium. After the game, Milbury said he wished the coaching staff and "other organization members" and "other organization members" and "other organization members".

> lost in his last six starts and has allowed just six goals in that span. Flyers 3, Canadiens 3 Petr Svoboda scored one goal and assisted on Philadelphia's two other goals. The Canadiens remained unbeaten in their last eight road games but have not won in

Philadelphia since Oct. 25, 1992. Sabres 4, Maple Leafs 1 Dominik

Stars 2, Blues 1 In St. Louis, Grant Marshall scored 57 seconds into overtime as Dallas became the first NHL team to reach 30 victories. Ed Belfour made 23 saves for the Stars. Coyotes 3, Panthers 2 Jeremy Roen-

ick notched his 700th career point on a first-period goal, and Keith Tkachuk scored his 29th this season for Phoenix, unbeaten in its last five home games. Oilers 5, Flames 2 Doug Weight scored his 16th goal of the season in the

third period as host Edmonton won its fifth straight Kings 4, Sharks 2 Rob Blake scored two goals and Luc Robitaille had a goal and two assists in Los Angeles's victory at San Jose. The Sharks got both their goals from Jeff Friesen, who broke a franchise record with his 163d career

point for San Jose. Avalanche 2, Mighty Ducks 0 Rene Corbet snapped a scoreless tie with 5:58 left in the third period, and Patrick Roy earned his 39th career shutout.

Peter Forsberg added his 17th goal and league-leading 57th point with 1:06 to play for visiting Colorado.

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about Germany or the United ik winde:

President Klee

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is mun **erc**

Swimming's governing body said Thursday it was powerless to expel China actions," he said. "This is powerless to cape from the world champion from the world champion ships in Perth, Australia.

Gunnar Werner, the FINA Chinese Swimming Association, expressed "great surprise and regret."

"This is individual behavior." Mr. Yuan said. "It

the championships the champion

vidual actions to be collective

On Thursday, Chinese of abuse that has been revealed among Chinese swimmers at among Chinese swimmers at these swimming championde, secretary-general ships a major threat to chinese Olympic Committee, said in Beijing that Western critics applied double throughout the world."

The German Swim ships a major threat to the reputation of swimming

The German Swimming "Other countries commit receration said it will be tolerated mistakes," he said. "Why do sidering pulling out of the Beijing meeting. you grab us, refuse to let go and blow it up saying it's Antonio Samaranch, the done by the government, it's

president of the International Olympic Committee, said in New York that the drug scandals could damage China's chances of being host of the Olympics in 2008.

Shen Guofang, a Foreign
Shen Guofang, a Foreign
Shen Guofang, a Foreign
Shen Guofang, a Foreign
Ministry spokesman, said the
Ministry spokesman spokesman



The U.S. synchronised swim team performing the routine that won it the bronze in Perth.

Australian Teenager Strikes Gold

PERTH, Australia - Ian Thorpe looked every inch the schoolboy he is when he Jenna Street, 15, was third. wandered up to the starting blocks Thursday, wearing his backpack, sandals and listening to a portable CD. But the "Thorpedo" left the pool the 400

meters freestyle world champion. Thorpe, 15, swam with the maturity of a veteran to overtake another Grant Hackett, another Australian schoolboy, in the final 15 meters. Thorpe's time of three minutes 46.29 seconds was the fourth-fastest of all time.

Hackett finished in 3:46.44 for silver. Paul women's 200-meter breaststroke final in a of Australia third.

17 25 6 40 118 137 16 20 8 40 105 115

meet record of 2:25.45 seconds. Kristy Kowal of the United States took silver and teammate

Lenny Krayzelburg gave the United States its first gold medal of the night with a victory in the 100-meter backstroke. Jenny Thompson then won her third gold medal of the championships in the 100-meter butterfly. The Americans concluded their golden night when the men's 400-meter freestyle relay team edged Australia for first.

Krayzelburg, 22, clocked 55.00 seconds to beat Canada's Mark Versfeld and German Stev Theloke. Thompson, 25, beat her own meet record with 58.46 seconds. Ayari Aoy-Agnes Kovac, 16, of Hungary won the ama of Japan was second with Petria Thomas (AP. Reuters)

Williams Sisters on Track 🕆 For Showdown in Sydney

Compiled by Our Staff From Desputables

SYDNEY - Venus Williams attracted attention first by reaching the U.S. Open finals. The future, though, may belong to her sister,

semifinals of the Sydney International, a tuneup for the Australian Open.

Serena Williams, the younger and perhaps more talented of the two, fashioned a masterful 1-6, 7-5, 7-5 comeback on a gimpy knee against Lindsay Davenport, who is ranked third in the world.

Venus Williams followed her sister onto center court and beat Maggie Maleeva, 6-2, 6-

The Williams sisters are on opposite sides of the draw and could meet Saturday in the finals. In the semifinals, Serena faces Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Venus plays either Barbara Paulus or Ai Sugiyama.

If the two Williams do make it through, it would be the first time since the women's professional tour started in 1971 that two

sisters have contested a final. Maleeva's elder sisters, Katarina and

Manuela, came closest in a semifinal at the 1991 Canadian Open. The Williams sisters contested a junior final in California seven years ago when

Venus, then aged 10, beat Serena, who was 8 then, 6-2, 6-2. Sanchez Vicario won her delayed secondround match against Janet Lee, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, then reached the semis by beating Natasha

Zvereva, 6-1, 6-2. If the Williams sisters do play each other. neither one is likely to take it easy.

"When I go out there, I'm going to see her as an opponent," Serena said. "She's my sister, yeah, but I want to win and I'm sure she wants to win.

Venus echoed that sentiment.

said, "So I'm going to try to win. I don't care who it is.

Serena, ranked No. 96, trailed, 1-6, 2-5, against Davenport and faced two match points at 15-40 before she grabbed control with a On Thursday the sisters surged into the combination of wily play and youthful ath-

leticism. The match was played in hot and humid weather. Serena, limping on her handaged right knee, took an injury timeout at 1-3 in the second set. She said she used the 10-minute break to "regroup my thoughts, stay calm. and take time to think everything through,

point by point."

After that she cut down on the errors that cost her the first set. She started ripping winners down the lines and into the corners from both sides. Davenport dug herself deeper into trouble with double-faults and mistakes.

Davenport described Serena as erratic, but said she has a much better serve than her sister. "Serena's better than Venus," Davenport said.

In men's second-round matches, pushed back a day because of rain, Tim Henman beat Albert Portas, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4; Thomas Engvist defeated Scott Draper, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, and Todd Martin beat Francisco Clavet, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-

Michael Tebbutt reached the semifinals by downing Albert Costa, 6-3, 6-3. Henman then gained a berth in the semis, too, by beating Enqvist, 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.
Top-seeded Patrick Rafter, who beat Mar-

tin, 6-4, 6-7 (7-4), 6-1, will play Henman in the semis. Jason Stoltenberg met Karol Kucera for a chance to go against Tebbutt.

In Melbourne, Pete Sampras recovered from a loss Wednesday with a 7-5, 6-1 victory Thursday over Greg Rusedski in the round-robin stage of the Colonial Classic.

Andre Agassi outlasted Goran Ivanisevic, 6-4, 6-7 (3-7), 6-3, and Andrei Medvedev beat "I'm trying to get my first title, too," she Thomas Muster, 7-6 (7-4), 6-0.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL EUROLEAGUE

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Link Name
Pau-Orthez 61, Paris St Germain 64

GROUP H

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Assists—Cippers 24 (Rogers 6), Toronto 27
(Camby, 11) (Staudamire 11).
Defreit 24 27 22 26— 93
Indirens 34 15 27 24—100
D: Hill 15-29 7-11 37, Dumors 10-21 2-3 22;
I: Miller 9-17 4-5/25, Mullin 4-95-516, Smits 510 6-10 16, Jockson 5-8 5-6 16, Rebeends—Defroit 44 (LWBitters 8), Indiana 50 (Mullin, D.Devis, A.Devis 6), Assists—Defroit 7 (Hill), Indiana 19 (Jackson 11).
Defices 15 27 13 27— 82

5), Listers 40 (Fisher 13). Orlando 25 30 28 21— 95 Serramento 26 30 29 32—188

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C: Selicuty 7-13 10-15 24, Armstrong 5-9-4-5
22 33 .057 22 14, Price 5-122-2 14; S: Richmond 7-15-8-8 22, Abdul-Worked 6-10 8-10 20, Rebounds—Oriende 45 (Outlaw 12), Society 29 257 1 remetals 62 (Polywicz 12), Assists—Oriende 22 12 647 5% 27 (Price 9), Socremento 25 (Johnson 8),

ICE HOCKEY NHL STANDINGS

M.Y. Rangers

0 1 0—1

New Jessey

2 1 1—4

1si Period: N.J.-Koffik 19 (Bornbardir, AndreyChuk) 28 N.J.-Hoffik 19 (Bornbardir, AndreyChuk) 28 Periods: N.J.-Pederson 10 (Ellos, Medermayer) (pp.). 4. Rangers, Kavalev B (Leetch, K.Sievers) (pp.). 3d Period: N.J.-Thomas 7 (Roiston, S.Sievers), Skots as god: Rangers 3-8-8-19, N.J.-13-45-22 Godies: Rangers 5-6unfer, Richter, N.J.-Brodevr.

Montreal

1 1 0—3

Philadelphia

1 1 0—3

Philadelphia

1 1 0—3

Philadelphia

1 1 0—3

(Sevobodo) (pp.). 2P-Lindras 20 (Briand Antour, Svobodo) (pp.). 2P-Period: P-Kiaff 9 (Svobodo) (pp.). 4M-Richer 5 (Brunet, Koivu) 3d Period: P-Svobodo 2 (Grutton) 6. M-Savage 16 (Damphousse, Recinsky) Overlines None, Shuts on godi: M-12-11-5-1-29, P-8-8-16-1-33, Geodies: M-Tibbuth, P-Snow.

N.Y. Islanders

2 2 2 2—7

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

PRISOURY

1 1 0-2

Beston

1st Period: B-Allison 17 (Sweeney). 2 8-,

Heinze 11 (Carte. Oonoto) 3. P-Wright 3

(Ahorszov, Moran) 2d Period: P-Morazov 7

(Jogr) 3d Period: B-Donoto 15 (Efelt,

Heinze) 6. B-Samsonov 7 (Allison) 7. B
Torylor 12 (Auslason, Sullivan) (en). Shorts on

goal: P-5-8-5-18. B-11-3-8-22. Goalies: P
Burtusso. B-Dafoe.

Chicago 2 8 2-4 B-Hasek T-Potvin.

Venecover

0 0 0-0
Detroit

1 2-4

1st Periad: D-Moitby 10 (Gichrist,
Yzernan) 26 Period: D-Murphy 6 (Lopointe,
Dondenavif) 3d Period: D-Shanohan 20
(Yzerman, Lidstron) (pp), 4, D-Gichrist 9
(Moitby, Yzerman) Shorts on geet by 11-12
3-26, D- 10-6-12-28, Gouties: V-Burke,
Irbe, D-Osgood.

9 1 0 1-2

St. Lods U 1 0 1—2
St. Lods U 0 0 1 0—1
St. Lods None. 2d Period: D-Nice-wendyk 20 (Reid, Verbeek) 3d Period: 5.L.Mccinnilla 13 (York) 0 Tb D-Marashall 4 (HallNote, Enry). Shots on goel: D-7-9-13-1—30.
St. Lods U 1 0 1—2
St. Lods U 1 0 1—3
St. Lods U 1 0—1
St. Lods U

1st Period: Phoenix, Roenick 13 (Ronning, omminen) 2d Period: Phoenix, Diduck 3 Voluminenty Ze Product Process, District X (Ylonen, Numminen) 3, F-Sheppord 11 (Whitney, Muller) (pp), 3d Parieds Phoents, Tracchok 29 (Drake) 5, F-Whitney 19 Sheppord, Jovanovski) Shots on goat F- 4-13-8—25. Phoents 11-10-8—29. Goalies: F-

13.8—25. Priocata 11.10-8—29. Geases: I-Vanbiesbruck. Phoenix, Khobibulin.

Calgary 0 2 6—2
Edmoston 1 1 3—5
1st Period: E-Grier 7 (Devereoux,
McAmmond) 2d Period: E-Mürchant 6
(Buchberge: Lindgren) 3. C-Boschard 3. 4,
C-McCarthy 5 (Nyfonder) 3d Period: E-Welght 16 (Guerin: Marchant) 6, E-Zelepukin
3.7: E-Lindgren 11, (en). Shots on god: C-1016-16—42 E- 10-12-6—28. Goalles: CRoisson. E-Joseph.
Las Angeles 0 1 1—2
1st Period: LA-Bioke 9 (RobifoliuFerron) 22 Period: S.J. Friesen 17 (Rogarason) 3. Los Angeles: Bloke 10 (RobifoliuFerron) (pp). 4. L.A., Robifoliu- 15 (Vopat,
Golley) (pp). 3d Period: LA-Stort,
Golley) (pp). 3d Period: LA-Stort,
Golley) (pp). 3d Period: LA-Stort,
Solley) (sp). 3d Period:

Colorado 0 8 2—2 Ancheim 6 0 8—0 1st Period: None. 2d Period: None. 3d Pe-riod: C-Corbel 12 (Mesaler, Kurti) (pp). 2, C-

SKATING

 Elena Berezhnoya/Anton Sikharalldze.
Russia, 1.5 lokal factored placings: 2. Oksana 4.D: 4. Derota Zogorska/Marksz Śkúlek, Pokrad, 6.D: 5. Peggy Schwarz/Mirko Muller, Germany, 8.D: 6. Eugenia Filonenka/Igor Marchento. Utroine, 8.S. 7. Yulia Ober-tas/Dmithy Polamarchok, Utroine, 11.D: 8. Katerina Berunkowu/Otto Diaboka, Czech Re-Katerina Berankova/Otto Diabota, Czech Re-public. 11.5; 9. Inga Radionova/Aleksandr Anichenka, Azerbaijan, 13.5; 10. Marsha

CRICKET CHI LAMEA VS. ZIMBARWE

20 DAY, SECOND AND FINAL TEST THURSDAY IN COLONBO Zimbabwe: 251 and 24-1

SOCCER SPANISH CUP FOURTH ROUND, FIRST LEG Real Sociedad C, Real Belis 2

Extremadura (II)* 2, Athletic Bilboo 0 Osasuna (II)* 0, Deportivo Conuna 1 Volladolid 1, Merida 1 Real Zaragaza 2. Attefico Ma INGLISH FA CIP

THIRD ROUND REPLAYS
Aston Ville 1, Portsipouth 0 Port Vale 1. Arsenal 1

Arsenal won 4-3 on penalty kicks. heffield Wednesday C. Watford O Sheffield Wed. won 5-3 on penalty bicks.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

THURSDAY IN PERTIL AUSTRALIA

 Lenzy Krayzeiburg, U.S., 55.00 seconds;
 Mark Versield, Conada, 55.17; 3. Stev Theloka, Germany, 55-20: 4. Neisser Bent, Cvbr. 55:21; S. Rodolfo Folcon, Cuba. 55:32; 6. Ma Weish. Australia. 55:45; 7. Eithan Urbaci Israel, 55:97; 8. Ricardo Busquets, Puerlo R

 I. Ion Thorpe, Australia, 2:45.29; 2. Grant Hackett, Australia, 2:46.44; 3. Pool Palmor, Britain, 3:48.02; 4. Pintilano Brembilla, Haly. ther Snitte, Utraine, 3:50.16; 7. Jorg Hoffman, Germany, 3:51.70; B. Danyon Looder, New Zealand, 3:52.26.

400 FREESTYLE RELAY

1. U.S. (Scriff Tucker, Neel Worker, Jon Olsen, Gary Hall Jr.), 3.16.69; 2. Australia (Michael Klam, Adom Pine, Richard Upthor, Chris Fydler), 3.16.97; 3. Russle (Alexander Popov, Roman Egorny, Viodislav Kulkov, Dents. Plinislovy), 3.18.45; 4. Germany, 3.18.45; 5. Netherlands, 3.19.47; 6. Brazil, 2.20.36; 7. British, 3.27.45; 8. Haly, 3.22.12.

WOMEN'S FINALS 1. Jenny Thompson, U.S., 58.46; 2. Ayan Acyama, Japan, 58.79; 3. Perrie Thomas, Australia, 58.97; 4. Mistly Hyman, U.S., 59.12; 5. Suste O'Nell, Australia, 59.27; a. Marina Montwove, Stavakia, 59.47; 7. Inge De Bru-ja, Netherlands, 1:00.09; 8. Hitomi Kashima, Japan, 1:00.43;

Jopan, 1:00.43:
Jopan, 1:00.43:
1. Agaes Kovacs, Hungary, 2:25.45; 2.
Kristy Kowai, U.S., 2:26.19: 3. Jenna Street,
U.S., 2:26.50; 4. Samantha Riley, Australia.
2:26.63; 5. Massant Tanaka, Jopan, 2:27.52; 6.
Penny Heyres South Africa, 2:27.81; 7.
Brighte Becue Belgiom, 2:28.27; 8. Svitiona
Bondarenka, Ulkraine, 2:31.00.
TEAM SYNCKPONAZED SWIMMANA
1. Russia (Olga Sedakova, Olga Brousnikina, Maria Kisseleva, Elora Azarova, Anna
Jourlaeva, Olga Novokchichenova, Olga
Medvedeva, Alexandra Vassina), 99.667
points; 2. Japan (Milya Tachibana, Mila Takeda, Rel Jimbo, Rolka Fulls, Rila Nakalima,

TENNIS SYDNEY BITTEMATIONAL THURSDAY IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

enport (2), U.S., 1-6, 7-5, 7-5. Venus Williams, U.S., def. va, Bulgaria, 6-2, 6-2. rantxo Sanchez Vicario, Spala, del. astro Zverevo, Bolgario, 6-1, 6-2.

THE HOOSE IS PUT AROUND HIS NECK AND TIGHTENED!

THIS IS THE END.

Martin, U.S., 6-4, 6-7 (7-4), 6-7. Karol Kucera, Słovakia, deł Jason Stotlenberg, Australia, 6-3 2-6 6-4. TASMANIAN INTERNATIONAL

THURSDAY IN HOBART, AUSTRALIA
CHARTERINALS
Dominique van Roost (1), Belgium, del. Li
Fang, China, 7-5. 6-3.
Portry Schwiger (2), Switzerland, del. Barbara Schell (7), Austra, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2. Joonnette Kruger (3), South Africa, def. Anne-Gaete Sidot (6), France, 7-5, 6-2. Magdalena Grzybowska, Pol., def. Hen-riela Nagyava (5), Slovakia, 6-1, 2-1, refired.

BULLSOUTH OPEN THURSDAY IN AUGICIAND, NEW ZEALAND
OUARTERFINALS
Marcol Riss (1). Chile, def. Kennet
Carlson, Denmark, 5-7, 6-4, 6-1.
Fells Martilla (2), Spain, def. Carlos Costs
Seale, 5-2, 6-2, 6-1. Spain 6-2 6-3.

Richard Fromberg, Australia, def. Dominik Hrbaty (3), Slovakia, 6-2, 7-6 (8-6). Byron Block, Zimbabwe, def. Christian Vinck, Germany, 6-4, 2-6, 7-5.

TRANSITIONS BASIBALL

RHP Jason Bere on 1-year contract.

Yord 15000, Maino Kowade, Yirko Yonedo), 982,57; 3. U.S. (Contre Barrier, Bridget Finn, Rebecco Josontek, Tima Kasik, Kiristina Lum, Emily Marsk, Elicia Marshall, Kira Wurzeli, 97,133; 4. France, 96,800; S. Conado, 95,269; 6. Italy, 95,267; 7. Chian, 94,800; B. South Korea, 97,300; 9. Switzerland, 92,800; 10. Spain Collabo—Agreed to terms with RHP Period.

and C Paul LaDuca to 1-year contracts.

MATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHARLOTTE—Put G Boody Philis on Injured list. Signed F Donoid Royal to 10-day control.

OH, KNOOK IT OFF. SOME OF US HAVE TO WEAR A TIE EVERY DAY.

POOTBALL Costo 6-1, 6-3.
Tim Henman (6), Britain, def. Thomas Enprints, Sweden, 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.
Potrick Raiter (1), Australia, def. Todd

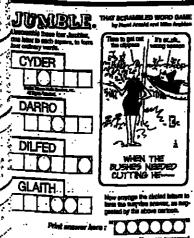
Potrick Raiter (1), Australia, def. Todd

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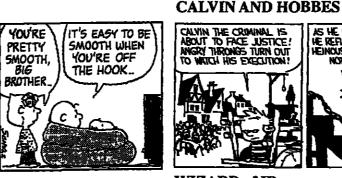


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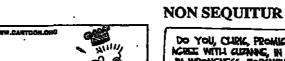






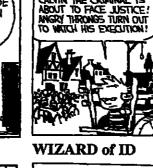












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DOONESBURY







The Burglary Show

Cut - The most exclusive entered a plea. antique venue on the East Coast this week may not be Christie's, Sotheby's or even a six-figure burglary in the Seventh Regiment Ar- Collinsville in which Gorham mory on Park Avenue, where silver flatware and Tiffany the Winter Antiques Show lamps were stolen. begins Friday. No, it is a non"You can't put a dollar figdescript state troopers' bar-racks here, home to the Con-David Whirty of the Canton Ponecticut Western District lice Department said philosoph-Major Crime Squad, where hundreds of stolen antiques recovered by police have just type items that may have been been put up for public view- passed down. Losing them ing. Burglary victims only, by appointment, please.

The "important" and "notso-important" items - netted from what police estimate was a stealing spree of 100 to 200 recent incidents in and around the starched perfection of the twinge of anxiety has created Litchfield Hills, — might best be described as eclectic.

Surrounded by yellow tiques mecca, a place of tea crime-scene tape next to the and scones on village greens. Surrounded by yellow state police bomb-disposal aruck, the haul includes brass beds. Colonial revival mirrors, heavily carved Victorian headboards, stacks of Life magazines, pith helmets, a wicker steamer trunk and a cut crystal punch bowl.

Local newspapers began reporting arrests two weeks oil painting of a clipper ship, ago and alerted citizens to a were there. But others were three-week "public viewmore typically associated with funerals — as state police attempt to reunite the stolen antiques with their rightful owners.

Andrew Weisz, 30, of Derby, the week before Thanksgiv-Connecticut, were arrested on ing. "These were family Jan. 2 by the Canton, Connecticut, police and charged with larceny in the first de- especially if you grew up with gree, burglary in the third de- them, are part of your life."

By Patricia Leigh Brown

New York Times Service

gree and conspiracy to commit larceny in the first degree: they are currently in jail ITCHFIELD, Connecti- awaiting trial and have not yet

The items police retrieved include some of the results of

ically as he showed off his wares. "These are generationalmeans a great deal. It violates the sanctity of home."

As the miniature porcelain busts of Garibaldi and Goethe await their deliverance, a a slight nick in the patina of perfection in this fabled an-

For Richard and Carly Jablonski, one local couple who visited the barracks last week, there was joy and frustration, since some stolen antiques were recovered while others remained painfully at large. The Jablonskis had hoped to find 17 pieces wrested from their wooded guest cottage. Some items, like an not, including a two-piece a phrase perhaps Federal corner cupboard typically associated painted by Richard Jablonski's mother in dark muted green

with a rusty red base coat. "We were devastated." Carly Jablonski said of the Nancy Indocci, 36, and burglary, which took place pieces. A stereo or television can be replaced, but antiques.

PINE PLAINS, New York — Priscilla Herdman and two of her best friends sit around her oak dining-room table and laugh, drink jasmine tea and eat homemade carrot bread. Outside, corn skeletons rattle in the wind. Black clouds knuckle against the hills.

Then Herdman and her friends (and fellow folk singers), Anne Hills and Cindy Mangsen, start making warm winter music that takes the edge off the chill night. Rehearsing for their annual tour, they braid their voices on songs like "Red and Green," "Witch Hazel" and "Proper Cup of Coffee," off their new album, "Voices of Winter," a collection of contemporary and tra-

By Dana A. Jennings

New York Times Service

ditional winter songs. Herdman's and Hills's silver earrings jitter as the three women

sing, sway and smile.
"That felt better than last says Herdman, her four cats curling around the table and the wood stove like smoke.

'Yeah, we'll be fine,' says

Mangsen, who is visiting from Vermont. "We'll be fine."

The three women, all in their 40s, usually play solo, performing in a world on the other side of hype, beyond youth's hunger for fame, beyond youth's hunger for fame, where a fam hass is built and kind it part of their home. where a fan base is built one kind word at a time, where a hit album sells 20,000 copies, not 2 million. In the 1990s culture of celebrity they are, maybe, footnotes. Do the Spice Girls rehearse in the dining room?

"You can't help but feel the pull of celebrity and money," says Hills, who has traveled from Pennsylvania. "All the time you get asked, 'You're so good, how come you're not famous?' "Yeah, yeah," Herdman and Mangsen say. "That happens all

But artistic integrity, hewing to a pure vision, often means playing to a small room. In popular music, compromise tends to add zeros to

Herdman has seen the mainstream embrace, and ultimately ditch, punk and grunge, new wave and new country, disco and techno, to name just a few styles. While folk music waxes and wanes, it never goes out of fashion - mainly because it is rarely in fashion.

"One of the differences for me. I think," Herdman says, "is that I don't see music as separate from my life. It's part of who I am. I like the simplicity and balance of it."

Which is why, for Pine Plains, New York, Herdman is a celebrity of just about the right size.

Pine Plains is a hamlet of about 1,000 people two hours north of New York City in Dutchess County. Not far from the Hudson River, it's a place of voluptuous hills dotted by horse farms, vine-yards and Christmas-tree farms. Deer haunt the roads late at night.

Herdman's house, an 1810 colonial, sits right there in the center of town, on Route 199. Its shelves are stuffed with books and compact disks. In her office hangs an old tenor banjo, a reminder that her mother, Ellen, as a young woman had loved to sing, too, and had passed music on to her youngest child. In turn. Herdman has passed mu-

"I love to sing, and she's helped me develop my singing." Suzanna says of her mother, who has been married to Dick Hermans, a local politician, businessman and disk jockey, for 15 years. "I love the musical theater, and my mom helped me get to the point where I could audition.

Suzanna likes to listen to Mariah Carey, Toni Braxton and the Wallflowers, but she falls asleep these nights to "Voices of Winter" -- even though her friends don't quite get it. Lawson. Other albums followed -'A lot of my friends don't know what folk music is," Suzanna says, "and it's kind of hard to explain."

Hasn't it always been hard to burns, alburns adored by many crit-explain? Herdman, 49, belongs to ics, alburns redolent of acoustic the paycheck. In her tenacious just-a-woman-with-a-guitar career, after Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs and dolins — albums without a com-



clear mountain-stream voices that brings to mind Joan Baez and Judy

Herdman released her first alburn, "The Water Lily," in 1977. It was a critically acclaimed work best known for adaptations of poems by the turn-of-the-century Australian folk poet Henry 'Forgotten Dreams," "Seasons of Change," "Darkness Into Light." These were strong but quiet al-

Joni Mitchell. She has one of those mercial bone in their dear bodies. During her career of more than

20 years, Herdman has earned a reputation for being both a consummate song finder and a strong interpreter of those songs. The Chicago Sun-Times once said that she was "a singer who finds the artistic heart of each tune." But that isn't a talent that's always appreciated.

as engaging as a whisper. "But there's a lot of pressure today to be a hotshot guitarist and to week."

I have never seen Priorities.

"I have never seen Priorities." be one of the guys.'

When she's preparing an album, says.

PEOPLE

A Folk Singer on the Far Side of Celebrity Herdman listens to hundreds of songs to find the dozen or so that she will record. "When I hear a sne wan record. When I hear a song, it has to hit me on an emotional level," she says. "I have to say to myself, "I want to hear this

song again. If I like a song, I type it out to have a feel for the words and the phrasing. Then I listen to it over and over. Some songs wear into me; some just wear themselves out. I don't try to sing a song the way the original singer did. Sometimes, I change melodies tiny bits. But I don't want to change a song too much. And I will ask the writer

before making changes.

Hills says, The artistic rewards
of folk music are really great, even if the financial rewards aren't."

Even so, every weekend thoulonghaired kid down the block to performers many people think are dead — fan out across America, armed with just their voices and their acoustic guitars. Some play for tips, others for a piece of the gate, a lucky few for a flat fee that breaks into four figures without the decimal point.

At the least, these old-fashioned romantics hope they can earn meal and gas money and pay for the wear and tear on their cars, and on them-

"Sometimes, the business side of it does get me down," Herdman

Mangsen adds, "But it's the only thing where I feel like my-

Herdman says, "If someone asked me, 'What would you do if you could do anything you wanted?' it would be to sing."

Herdman plays some 80 gigs : year - she doesn't want to do more — and she already has four albums planned to complement the 10 she has recorded. Her husband admires

lover and a partner," Hermans

ART

Metropolitan Museum Director Gets a Wider Role

By Carol Vogel New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Philippe de Montebello, director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art for 20 years and known to millions of visitors as the mellifluous voice on the museum's audio guides, has been named to the new position of chief executive officer, putting him fully in charge of all museum operations. At the same time, the museum announced that its president, William H. Luers, would

retire at the age of 70 in the spring of 1999. it. Luers has be the administration of the museum, including its budget and its government and community relations. As director, de Montebello has run the curatorial side of the museum. Both jobs

include fund-raising.

A new president will be named to replace Luers, but rather than report to the board, as has been the practice, the new president will

report to de Montebello. 'It's the right thing for the Met right now," said Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, the museum's chairman, who is also chairman emeritus of The New York Times Co. "Philippe is one of the most distinguished museum professionals, and he brings over 20 years of experience to the job. Hopefully, the new president will be a younger

person who can learn from him." The announcement signals a major change in the power structure of the Met, the largest museum in the United States with more than 2 million objects and 5.5 million visitors à year. It is a structure other

museums have emulated without success. For 14 years, for example, the Philadelphia Mu-

By Judith H. Dobrzynski

the Nazis says that 16 other works by Schiele in museums and private col-

the same provenance as one of the

If Dr. Rudolf Leopold's claim

two being questioned.



William Luers (left) and Philippe de Montebello.

d'Harnoncourt as director and Robert Montgomery Scott as its co-equal president and chief executive. But last year the museum abandoned the system, naming d'Harnoncourt the director and chief executive and bringing in Gail Harrity from the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum to be its chief operating officer.

At the Met, the arrangement has also been debated. Many art experts say Luers and de Montebello are For 14 years, for example, the Philadelphia Mu-seum of Art had the same system, with Anne believed to have sometimes had a strained part-reporting relationship. "We are leaving ourselves to nership. But museum officials disputed the talk of greatest latitude for the future," Sulzberger said.

16 Other Schiele Paintings Said to Have Iffy Provenance

New York Times Service

ern's exhibition, "Egon Schiele: The in Dachau in 1940. One family members of the collection," ended Jan. 4. ber, Rita Reif, is a former reporter for but Morgenthau's office wanted them The New York Times who now from the Modern's exhibition, "Egon Schiele: The in Dachau in 1940. One family members of the collection of the Modern's exhibition, "Egon Schiele: The in Dachau in 1940. One family members of the collection of the collection

dispute over the ownership of two kept in New York pending the outEgon Schiele paintings plundered by come of its criminal investigation.

All of the 16 works I a

impact on art loans.

lections in the United States share with leading museum and Austrian

holds true, four museums, including ed in the Austrian press, were con-the Museum of Modern Art in New firmed Wednesday by his wife,

York, and several private collectors Elizabeth Leopold, a board member

may face ownership questions sim- of the Leopold Museum, in a tele-

ilar to those that prompted District phone interview. Her husband was

Attorney Robert Morgenthau to is- not at home, she said.

The district attorney's action set

Leopold's comments, first report-

off an international art world furor,

government officials deploring its

The paintings were supposed to be Reif family, the heirs of Fritz Gru-Galerie St. Etienne in Manhattan, returned to Vienna when the Mod-enbaum, a Jewish comedian who died who bought it in the 1956 sale at

All of the 16 works Leopold

by the Klipstein & Kornfeld Gallery Austrian National Gallery, which

singled out were once owned by Gruenbaum and were sold in 1956

in Bern. Leopold told Austrian re-

porters that the Museum of Modern

Art in Manhattan and the Santa Bar-

bara Art Museum in California each

own one of the works, while the Art

Institute of Chicago and the Allen

Memorial Art Museum at Oberlin

College in Ohio each have two. The

rest are in private hands, he added.

tensions. "I wouldn't say that," Sulzberger said. "They disagreed on some things as people do. Both men are pretty strong-willed."

Luers called his relation with de Montebello excellent. "He's been one of the most amusing, erudite colleagues. Sure we've had a few disagreements on a few basic issues, but we faced them amicably.

De Montebello said that he planned to renovate the museum's Great Half physically and intellectually, making access for visitors easier and making information clearer.

"I like to think in a museum subtle changes in be as important as building new wings," de Montebello said. He said he would be former companion, the actintimately involved in the redesign of many ress Mia Farrow, and the parts of the museum, among them the 17th- conductor Andre Previn. and 18th-century Italian galleries and the They were married in Decem-

Egyptian galleries.

De Montebello's entire career has been promoting his new film, "Decuratorial, while Luers's has not. Luers, who became president of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service and the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service and the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service. He was the U.S. amount of the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service and the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service and the Met in 1986, was in the Foreign Service and the Met in 1986, was in th bassador to Czechoslovakia from 1983 to Europe.' 1986 and to Venezuela from 1978 to 1982.

De Montebello is the museum's eighth director. With the exception of four and a half years as director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, he has spent his professional life at the Met, rising in the ranks of the curatorial staff.

came 12 years ago."

But when de Montebello, 61, retires, board members say, they will reassess the two jobs, duties and

reporting relationship. "We are leaving ourselves the

who bought it in the 1956 sale at

The other painting under question from the Modern's exhibition, "Por-

trait of Wally," is claimed by the heirs of Lea Bondi Jaray, a Viennese Jew who fled to London in 1938. She

tried for years to reclaim it from the

gave it to Leopold in a trade in-

volving several paintings in 1954.

feld, the gallery owner, said, "My

only comment is that it was 42 years

ago, and I can't remember all the

details. I have given all the infor-

mation to the lawyer in Zurich for the

Reifs and to Justice," a reference to

the Swiss courts. He declined to say

Reached in Bern, Eberhard Korn-

MILDREN, the newlywed 62-year-old Woody Allen said, are "a reasonable option." In an interview in the French daily Le Figaro,

the actor-director said he and his new wife, 27-year-old

Soon-Yi, had discussed having children. "Why not?" he

said. "I feel young and full of

energy and my parents, you know, are still alive. My fa-

ther is about to turn 97 and my

mother is 91 and they're well.

That's why I believe having

children is a reasonable op-

tion for the two of as." She is

the adopted daughter of his

A Bulgarian songwriter has accused Michael Jackson of plagiarism. Atanas Atanassov said Jackson's 1997 hit "Blood on the Dance Floor" took its melody and rhythm Luers said he thought putting de Montebello at from "New Year," a song he wrote in 1981, the helm was a good decision. "The issues going and he is seeking compensation. "I know they forward are very different than they were when I will call me crazy, but I cannot forgo my author's rights," he was quoted as saying in song be banned from Bulgaria's airwaves. . . . Garth Brooks settled a copyright lawsuit with the songwriter Guy Thomas just moments before opening statements were to be-gin in a trial on the matter. Thomas claimed that Brooks's hit "Standing Outside the Fire" was lifted from the 1993 Kenny Loggins tune
"Conviction of the Heart" co-written by Thomas. The terms of the settlement were not

movie about genetically made babies. Her publicist said the baby was due in July.

The Screen Actors Guild is paying tribute to Elizabeth Taylor for lifetime achievement. The salute, on March 8, honors Taylor for "fostering the finest ideals of the acting profession," the Guild president, Richard Mazur, said. "From the time Miss Taylor first entered our lives as the innocent child in 'National Velvet,' the world has loved her." he said. "As we watched her grow, both as a person and an actor, she presented us with gift after gift in the form of her performances.'

Standing before a studio audience for the first time since declaring an end to the comedy hid their family connection at first, performthat bears his name, Jerry Seinfeld bluntly ing under the name The Honkabillies.

BLUE AND HAPPY - Cast and crew of "NYPD ber in Venice. Allen, in Paris Blue" celebrating the 100th episode of the TV series.

Seinfeld, the money a reference to what NBC was willing to pay him to keep "Seinfeld" on the air for another year. With the moments suddenly a precious few, a "Seinfeld" taping is a hot ticket in Los Angeles. Seinfeld said his supporting cast — Jason Alexander, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Michael Richards — all agreed with his decision. "We all felt that timing," he said. "We kind of wanted to have one last thrill. It caught everyone by surprise, didn't it?" "Would you do it for \$10 mil-Trud newspaper in Sofia. Pending a court lion?" an audience member asked. "Good decision, he has demanded that Jackson's question," Seinfeld said. "A question I was question," Seinfeld said. "A question I was not asked, by the way." After the laughter died down, Seinfeld answered quietly: "No, I wouldn't. It's not about the money.

Christian Slater surrendered at the La Verne, California, jail to begin serving a 90-day sentence for attacking his girlfriend and a security officer. Slater turned himself in a day after attending the Los Angeles premiere of his latest film, "Hard Rain." The actor's lawyer made arrangements for him to serve Uma Thurman is expecting a child with his time in La Verne because the small Ethan Hawke, her co-star in "Gattaca," a suburban prison facility east of Los Angeles suburban prison facility east of Los Angeles is considered more hospitable for a celebrity than Los Angeles County Jail. Slater pleaded no contest last month to two counts of battery and one count of being under the influence of cocaine at a party in August

> Loretta Lynn's twin daughters are following in her footsteps, but is Mom pleased? "Not really," the country singer said in an interview to be aired on "48 Hours" on CBS. "I would rather have my daughters get an education and get a good job and stay at home with their family." She said her biggest regret in life was a concert schedule that kept her traveling while her children were growing up. Peggy and Patsy Lynn plan to release their debut CD, "The Lynns," on Feb. 10. They

sue a subpoena last week freezing the Leopold's statements refer to Leopold bought "Dead City" the Swiss courts. He declined two Schiele paintings in New York. "Dead City," which is claimed by the from Otto Kallir, then the owner of where he bought "Dead City." Small German Museum Takes On Louvre Over 'War Booty'

WUPPERTAL. Germany — It all started museum — Second convoy Baden-Baden. The museum director believes this was properties. year and prompted a small German art museum to challenge the Louvre to return its "war booty."

Delacroix and Ingres, had been missing from the Von Der Heydt Museum — formerly known as the Louvre bearing labels indicating their proven-Elberfeld Museum — since the end of World War ance, or on the French museum's Internet site. II. They were thought to have vanished in the chaos of the war.

Then in early 1997 a fax arrived at the Von Der Heydt Museum "by mistake," said Sabine Fehle-mann, the museum director. It had been sent by the Louvre in Paris and detailed a painting of a board says yes. nude woman by Renoir.

The museum director believes this was part of the museum's property that had been seized by French museums." French troops stationed in Coblenz from a storage Fifteen paintings, including works by Renoir, warehouse where it had been placed to escape air raids. She soon found other lost paintings in the

> But now a new battle has arisen over whether the Wuppertal museum's paintings had in fact originally come from France, having been looted from there during the Nazi occupation. Fehlemann says no, but the French museum

Robert Fohr, a spokesman for the French mu-Fehlemann went to Paris to have a closer look. seums, said, "Between 1944 and 1949, 61,000

by Bignon for 150,000 francs to the Wuppertal returned to their owners and 13,000 without artistic value sold, while the museum board took over the remaining 2,000, which are exhibited in

These 2,000 orphaned works today are considered "spoils of war," a term that strikes a raw nerve in Germany, which has been negotiating for years to recover a huge amount of property amassed by the Soviet Army of occupation. Fohr said most of the 2,000 works were bought on the Parisian art market during the Nazi occupation of France for German museums or collectors. The transactions thus fall under an agreement adopted by Allied forces in 1943 that annuls all transactions conducted on occupied territory, even those with a semblance of legality, he said.

Fehlemann however insists that certain paint-A label on the back of the work's frame was marked: "From the Cobleuz warehouse — Sold covered by the Allies. More than 45,000 were ings were bought before the Nazi occupation france, and others were not bought by Nazis. ings were bought before the Nazi occupation in

Sundance Film Festival Announces Its Lineup

makers, the Sundance film festival opened with Gwyneth Paltrow in the romantic story "Sliding Doors." During the 10-day festival, about 100 feature films will be shown, mostly American movies made with big studio funds.

The 16 dramatic films in competition for acquisition interest are "The Misadventures of Margaret," "Pi," "How to Make the Cruelest Month," "Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss"

The Associated Press

and "Next Stop, Wonderland." "The Misadventures of Margaret," featuring the independent film stalwart Parker Posey in a sexual satire, has also sparked considerable interest among buyers.

One film that won't get a Sundance world debut is Nick Broomfield's documentary "Kurt and Courtney" about the singer Courtney Love and her late husband, Kurt Cobain. 1998 were selected from a record 750 submissions. Among the films generating the most record label, the festival pulled the picture from competition. Love reportedly said the movie contained unlicensed music performed by her band, Hole, and Cobain's Nirvana.